

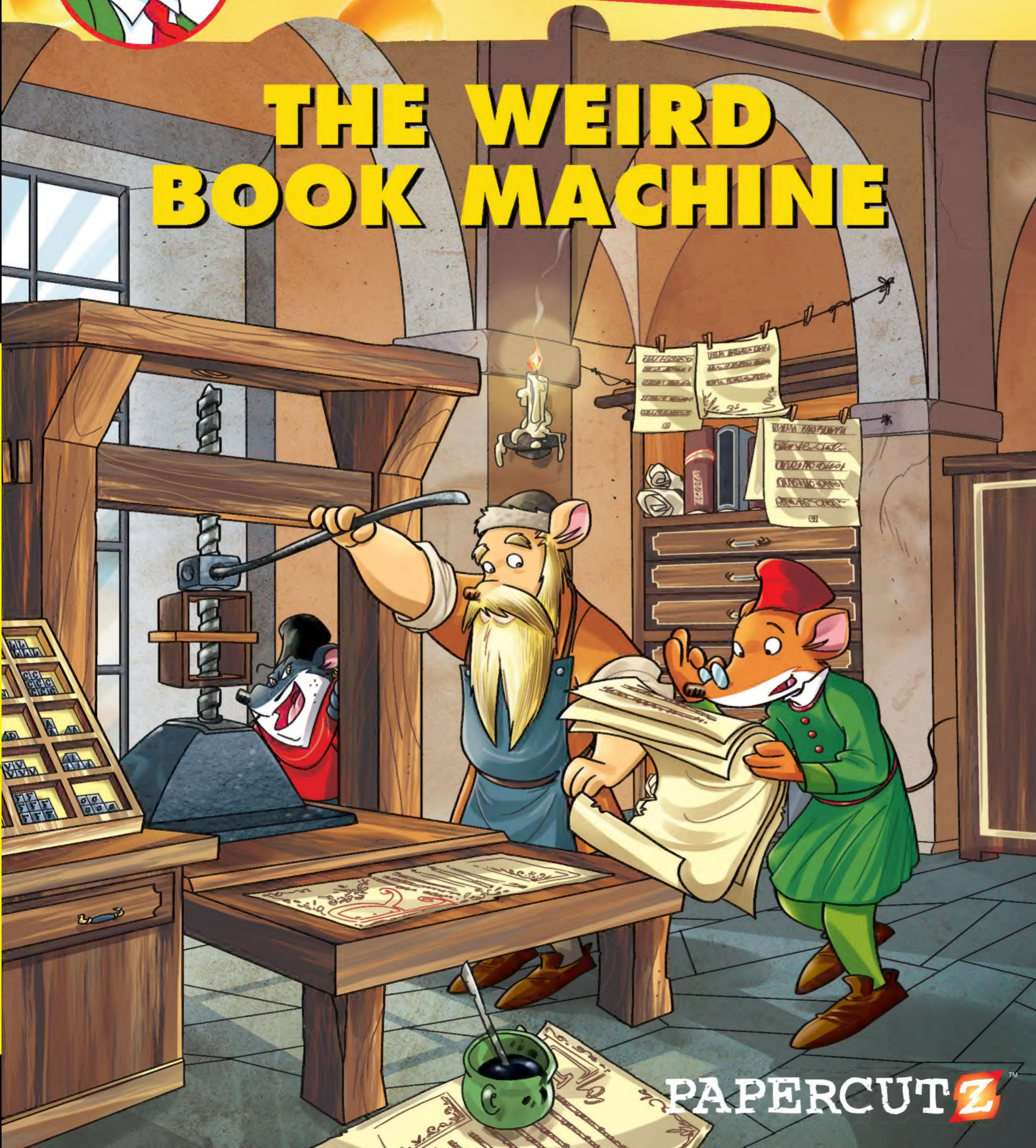


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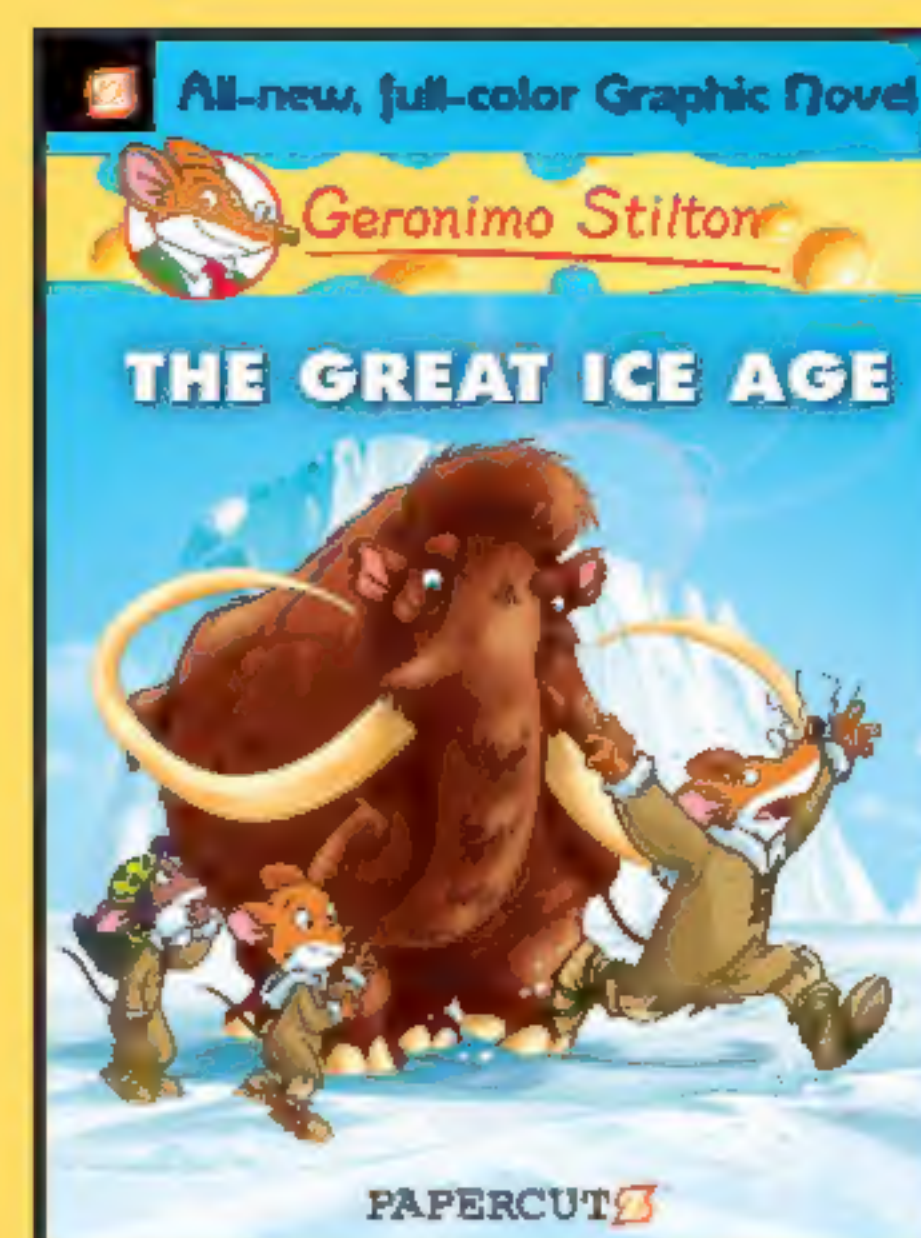
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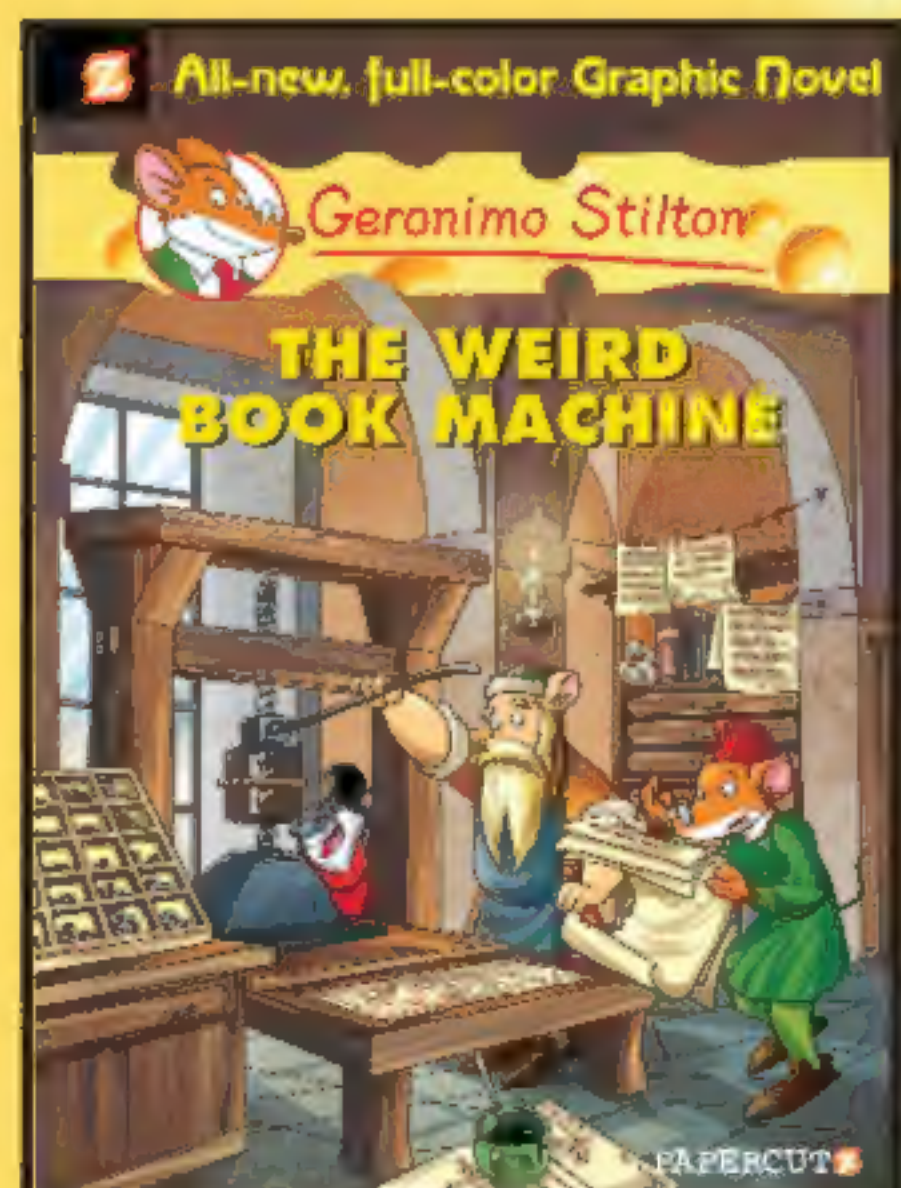
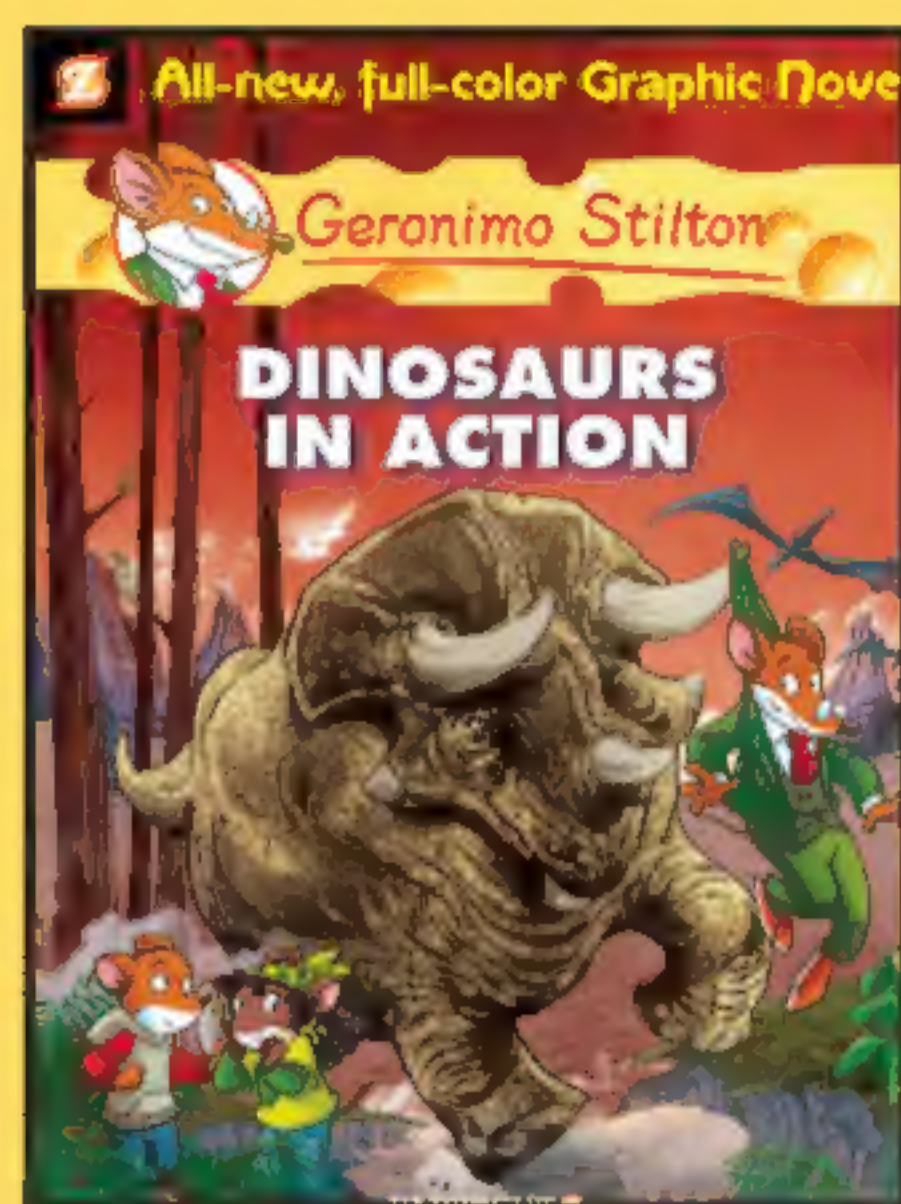
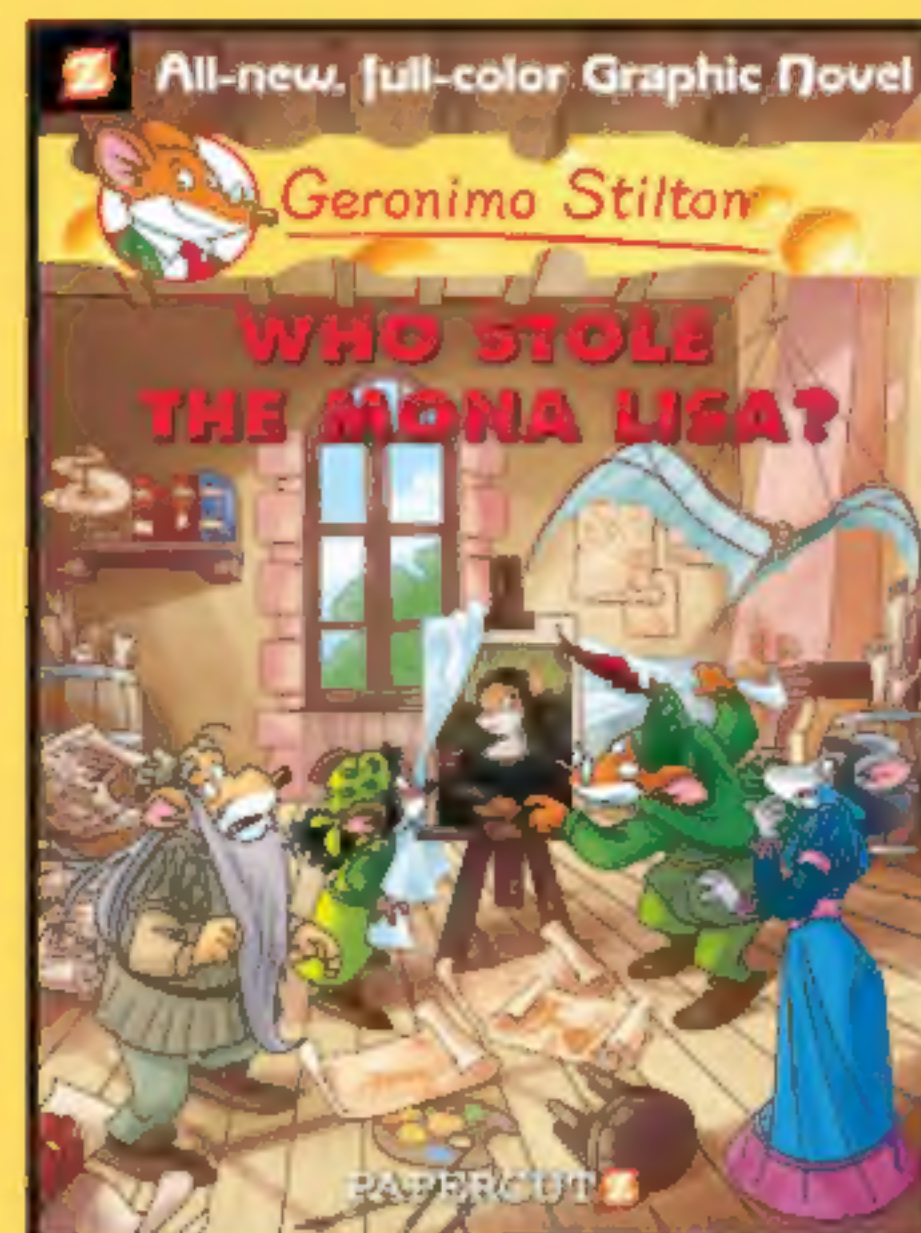
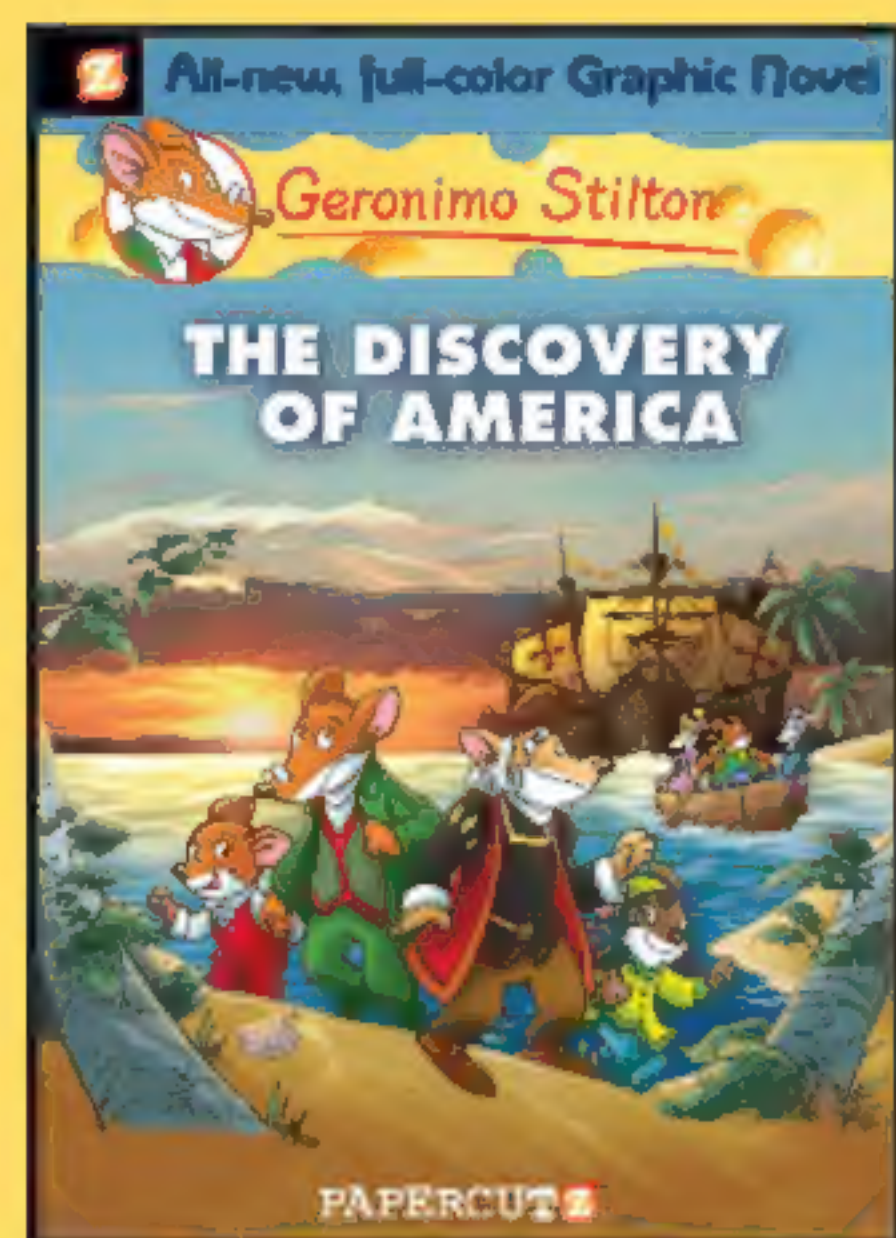
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Geronimo Stilton

THE WEIRD BOOK MACHINE

By Geronimo Stilton



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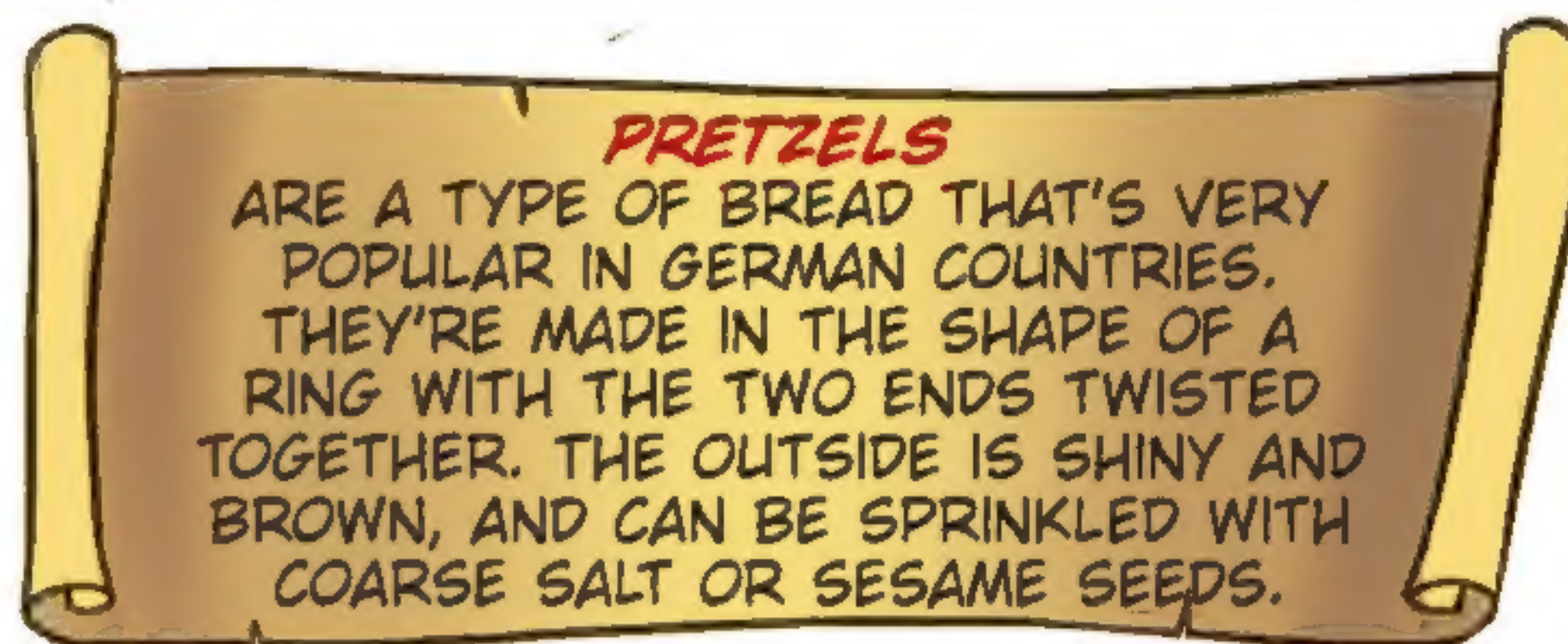
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"...BUT IT DEFINITELY
DOESN'T LACK FOR
BOOKS!

FRANKFURT AM MAIN

THE FIFTH LARGEST CITY IN GERMANY, FRANKFURT IS IN THE SOUTHWEST PART OF THE COUNTRY, ON THE MAIN RIVER, WHICH IS A TRIBUTARY OF THE FAMOUS RHINE RIVER. THE FRANKFURT INTERNATIONAL BOOK FAIR IS THE BEST KNOWN BOOK FAIR IN EUROPE. IT TAKES PLACE EVERY YEAR IN OCTOBER. PUBLISHING HOUSES FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD MEET HERE TO BUY AND SELL THE RIGHTS TO PUBLISH THEIR BOOKS.

WHAT I DIDN'T KNOW WAS
THAT PROF. VON VOLT WAS
ALSO IN FRANKFURT.

JOURNEY TO MARS

WE CAN'T YET SAY FOR
CERTAIN WHEN WE'LL BE
ABLE TO REACH THE
RED PLANET,
BUT ACCORDING TO MY
ANALYSIS, THE CONDITIONS
FOR THE ABOVE MENTIONED
JOURNEY WILL ARRIVE
IN A RELATIVELY SHORT
TIME SPAN.

I HOPE HE WON'T TAKE
SO LONG THIS TIME. HIS
TALKS NEVER LAST LESS
THAN TWO HOURS!

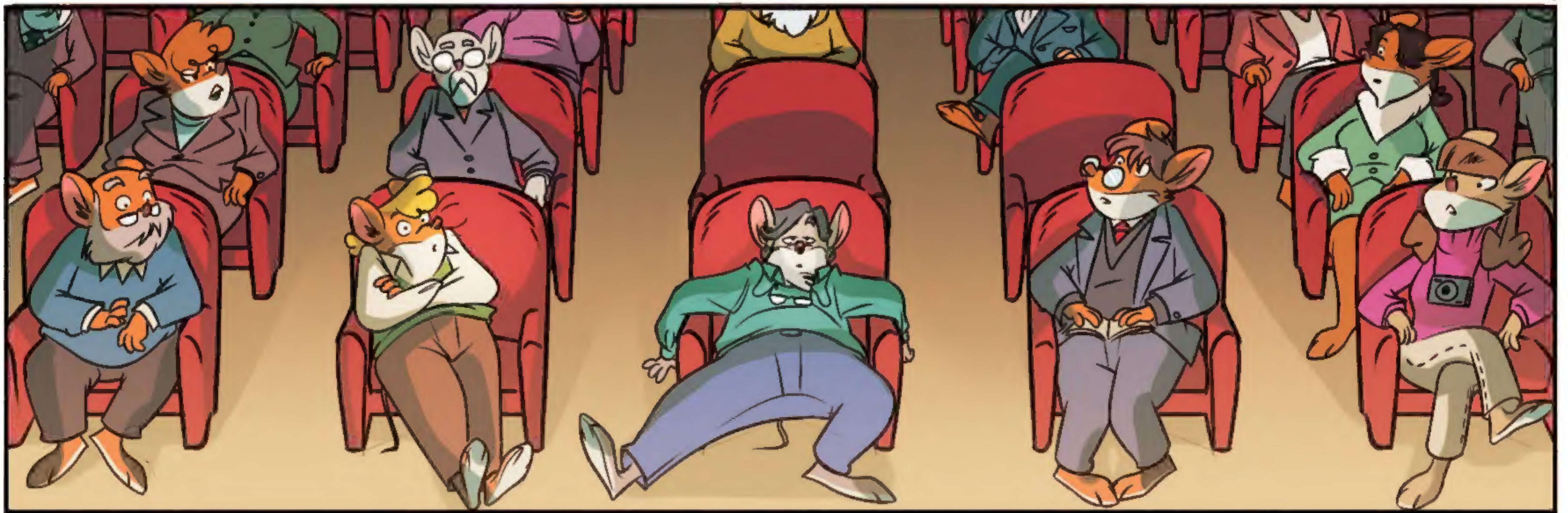
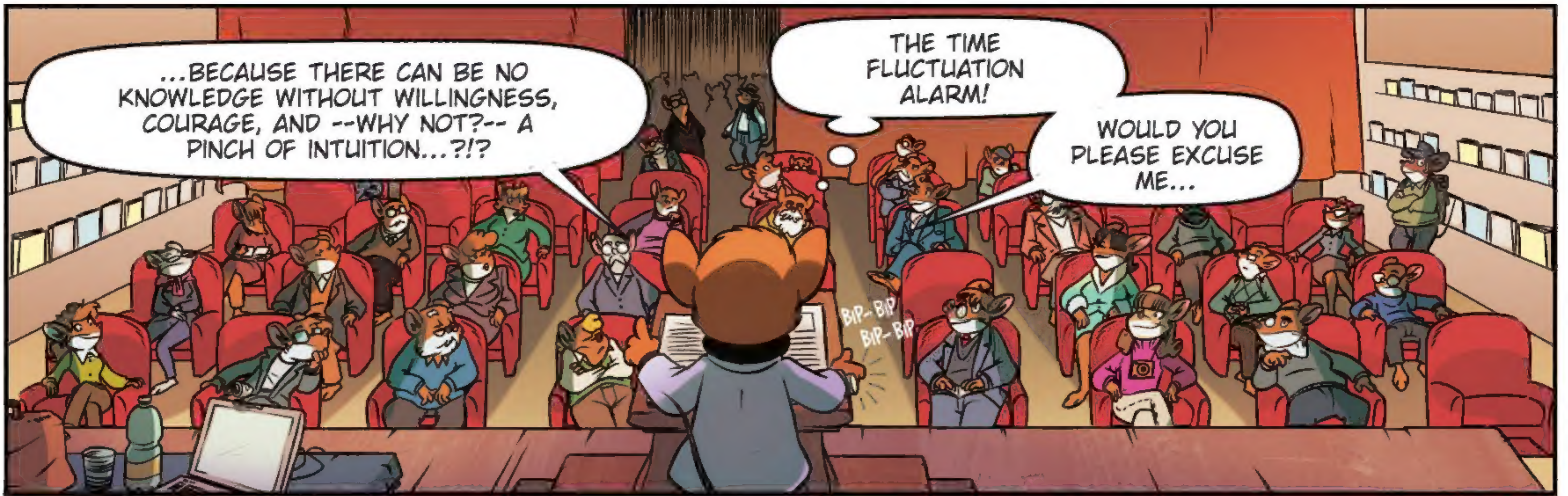
WE'LL JUST
HAVE TO PUT
UP WITH IT.

...IN MY LATEST BOOK
JOURNEY TO MARS,
I CONSIDER THE
TECHNOLOGICAL
ADVANCES OF THE PAST
50 YEARS OF HISTORY
IN ORDER TO ASSESS
THE TECHNOLOGICAL
DEVELOPMENT REQUIRED
TO TAKE US TO MARS...

...OBVIOUSLY, THIS CAN'T BE A
SUPERFICIAL ANALYSIS, BECAUSE COM-
MITMENT AND DEDICATION ARE THE
BASIS OF GOOD SCIENTIFIC ANALYSIS, IN
ADDITION TO THE COUNTLESS HOURS
NECESSARY TO UNDERSTAND THIS
ISSUE...

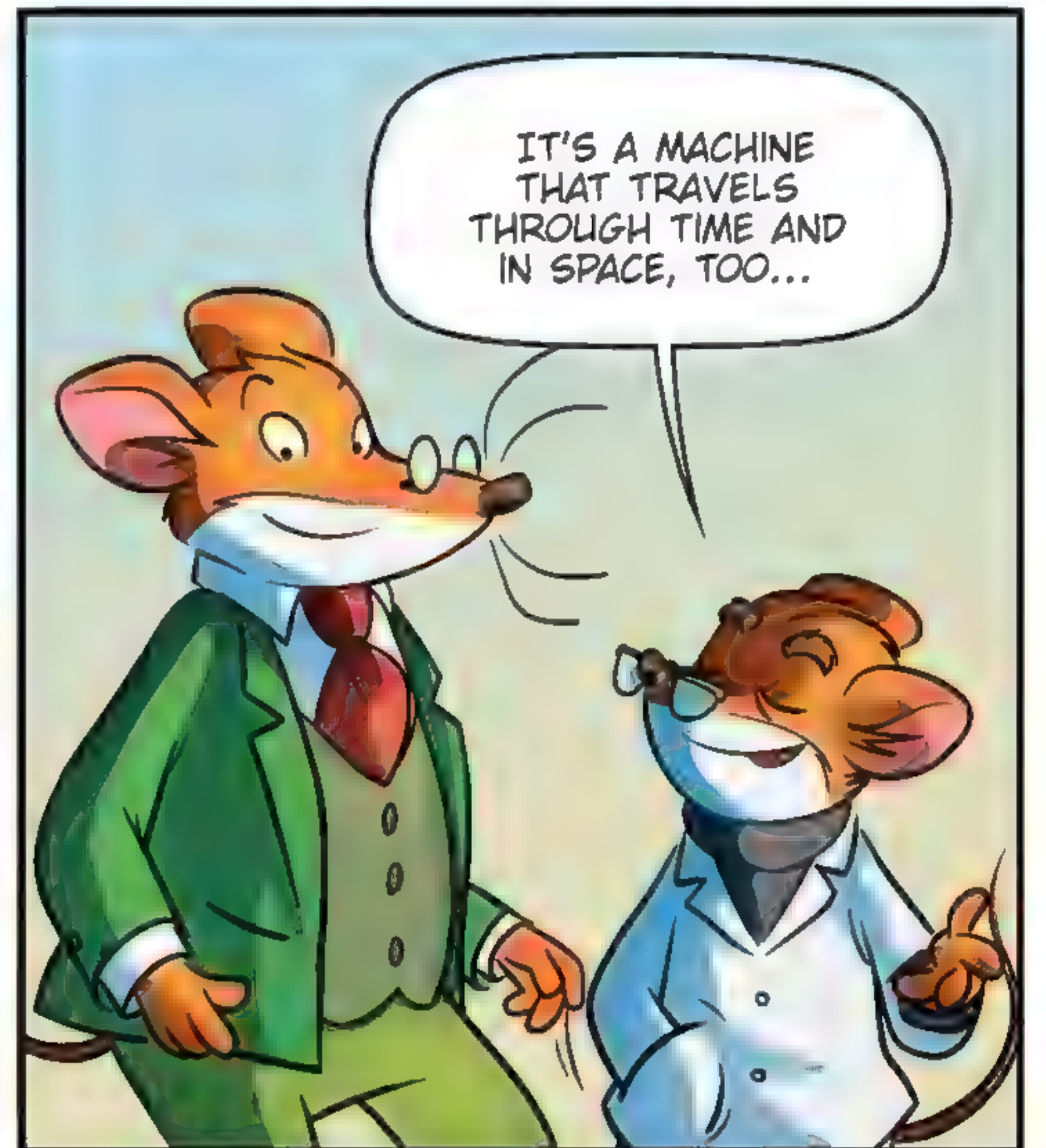
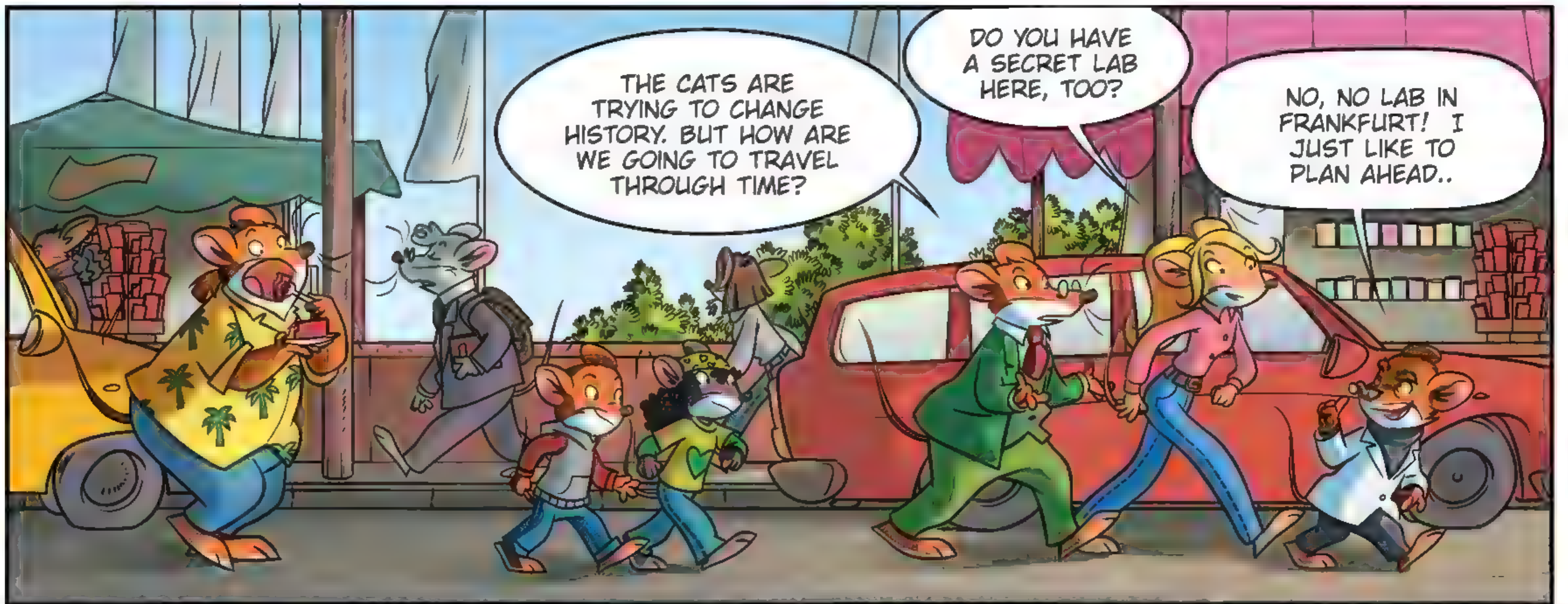
HE JUST SAID
HE'D SPEAK FOR
HOURS...

~SIGH!~

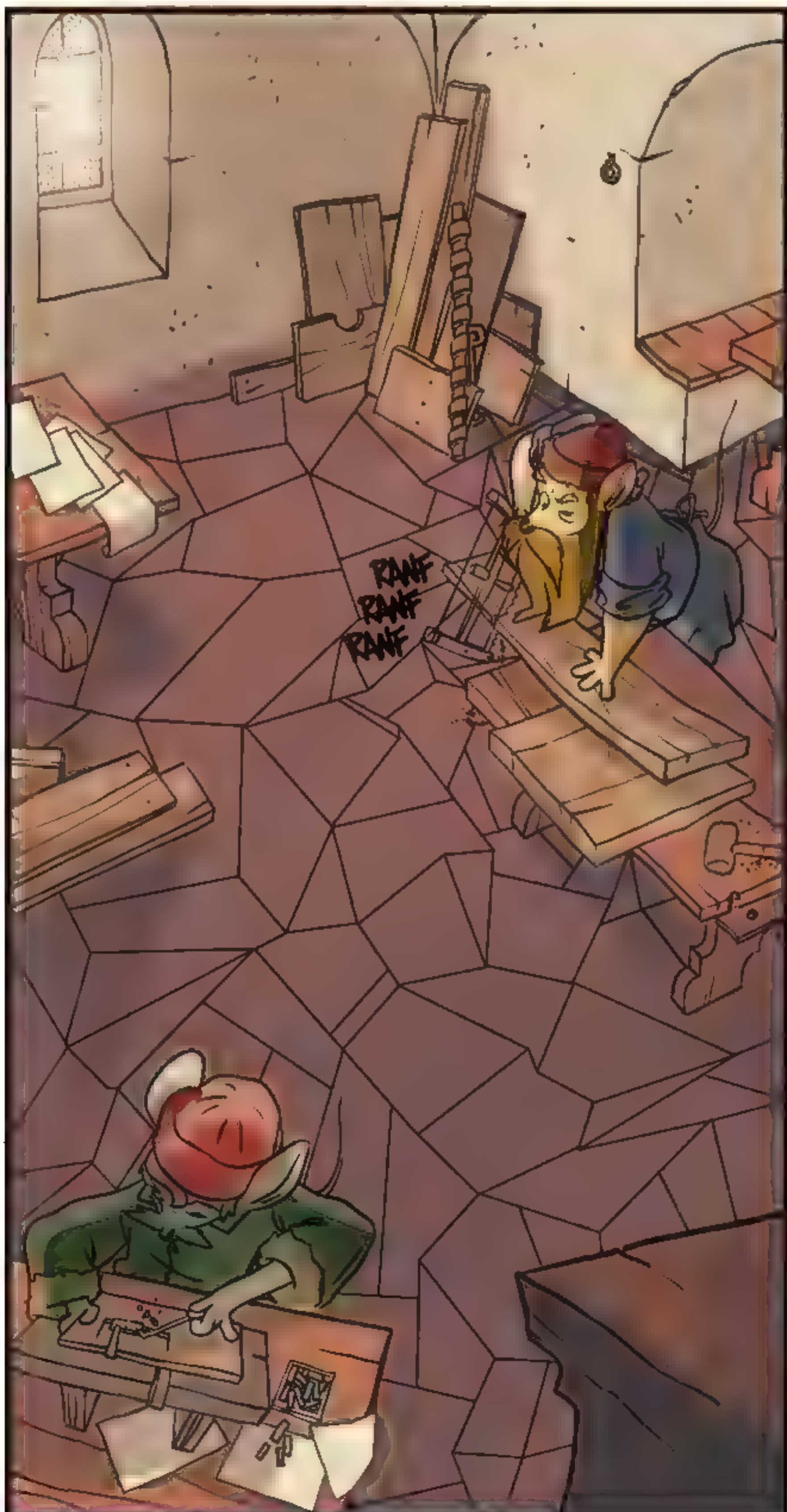












**JOHANN GUTENBERG
(1394/1399-1468)**

WAS BORN IN MAINZ TO A NOBLE FAMILY. HE WAS A GERMAN INVENTOR, PRINTER, AND GOLDSMITH. HIS FAME IS DUE TO HIS INVENTION OF THE PRINTING PRESS WITH MOVABLE TYPE IN EUROPE, WHICH HE ACCOMPLISHED WITH THE HELP OF ENGRAVER PETER SCHOFFER AND THE FINANCING OF BANKER JOHANN FUST.

PETER, HOW FAR ALONG ARE YOU WITH THE ENGRAVING?



I'M IN GOOD SHAPE WITH THE TYPE PIECES. BUT HOW'S IT GOING WITH THE MACHINE?



THE FRAME'S NO PROBLEM. HOW IT WORKS IS WHAT I'M WORRIED ABOUT... WE'LL HAVE TO DO VARIOUS TEST RUNS TO MAKE SURE EVERYTHING'LL BE OKAY.



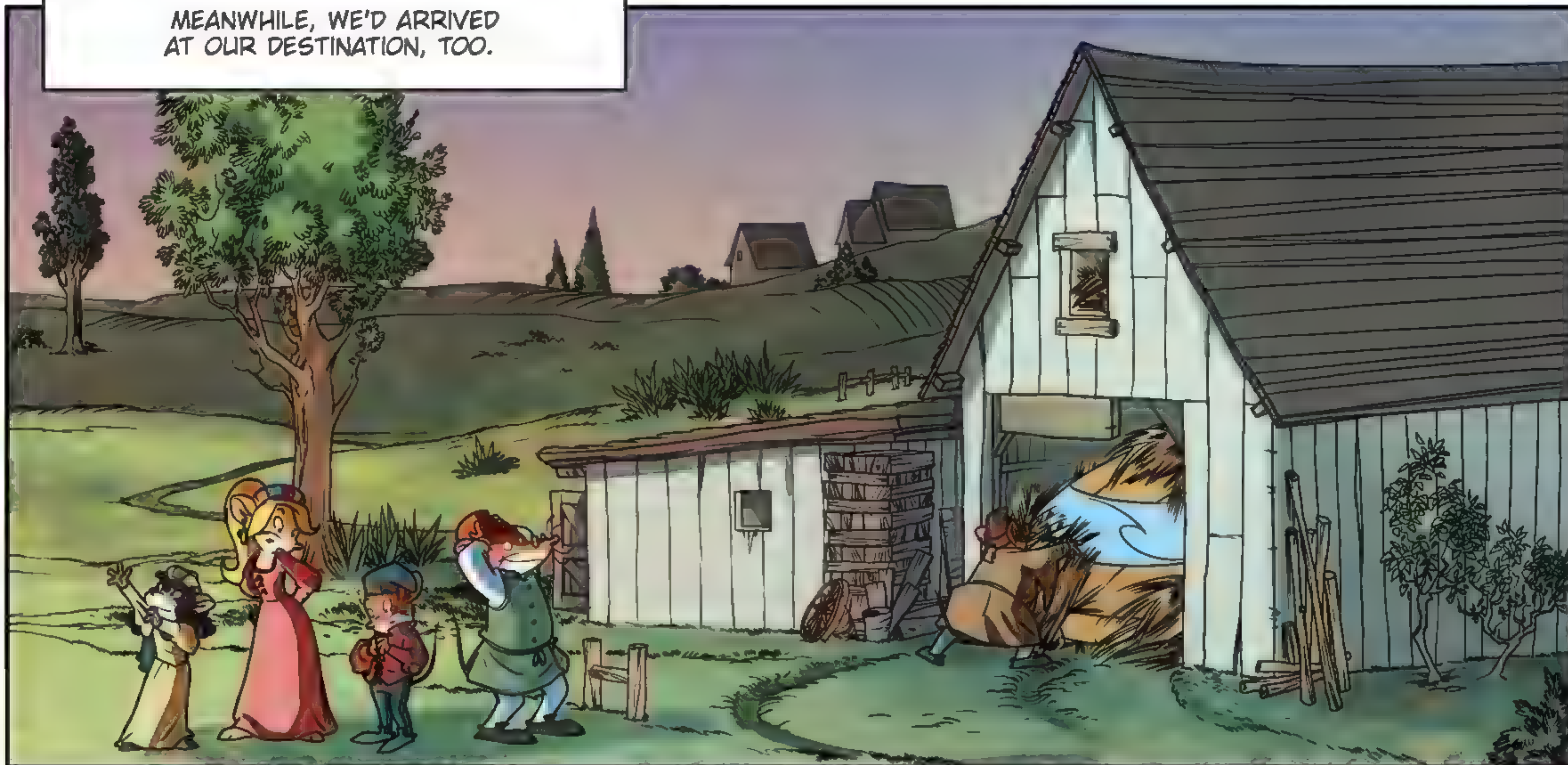


THE GUTENBERG BIBLE

ALSO KNOWN AS THE 42-LINE BIBLE, IT WAS THE FIRST BOOK PRINTED IN EUROPE WITH MOVABLE TYPE. IT CONSISTED OF TWO FOLIO VOLUMES (THAT IS, WITH THE SHEETS OF PAPER FOLDED ONLY ONCE ALONG THE SHORTER SIDE), ONE WITH 324 PAGES, WHICH HELD PART OF THE OLD TESTAMENT, AND THE OTHER WITH 319 PAGES WHICH HAD THE LAST PART OF THE OLD TESTAMENT AND THE NEW TESTAMENT.



MEANWHILE, WE'D ARRIVED
AT OUR DESTINATION, TOO.



BUGSY, DID I
LACE UP THIS
DRESS ALRIGHT?
BETTER CHECK!



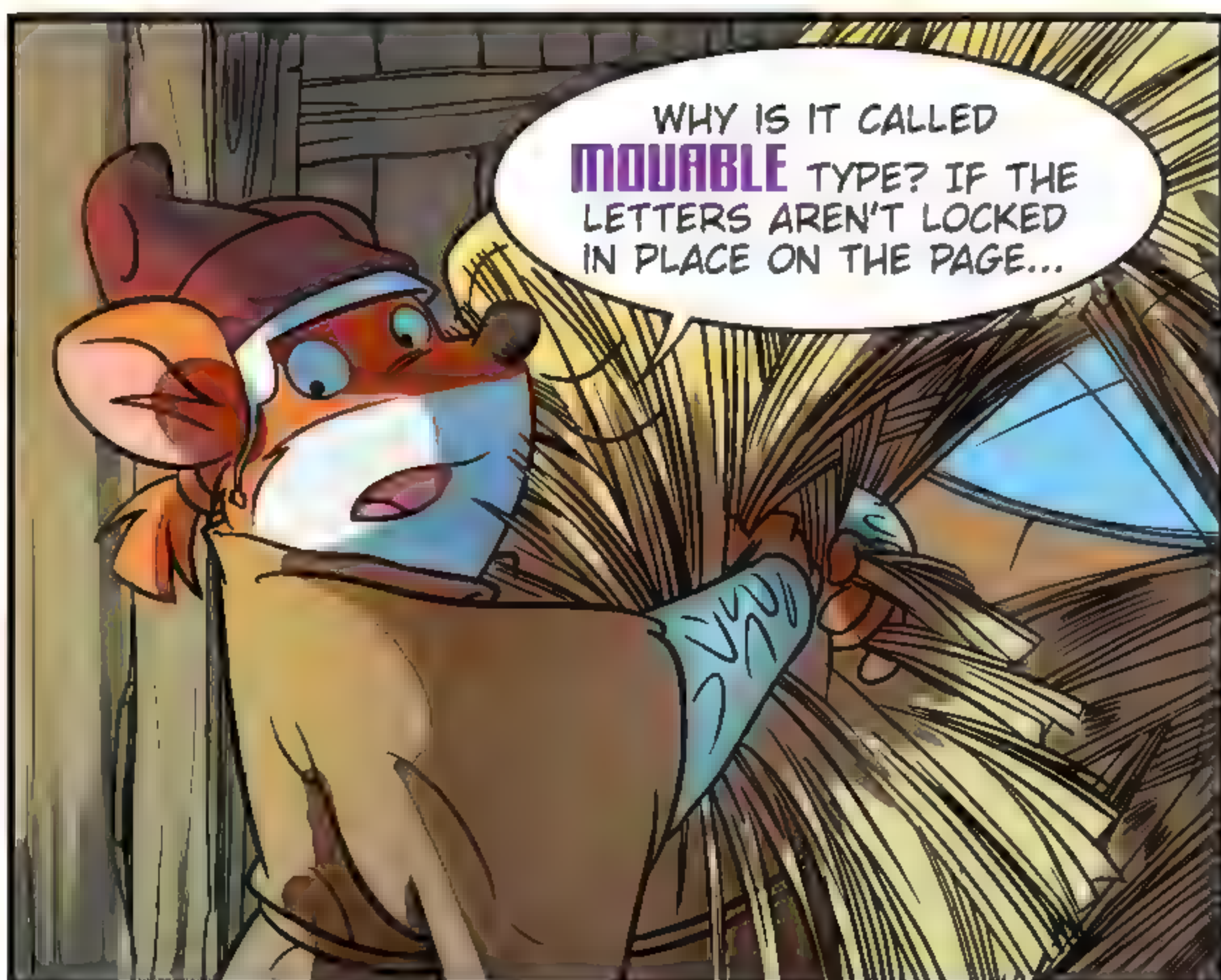
YES, AUNT
PETUNIA... YOU
DIDN'T MISS A
SINGLE ONE!

COUSIN, EXPLAIN
SOMETHING TO ME.
I KEEP THINKING
ABOUT THIS BUT I
CAN'T FIGURE OUT
THE ANSWER...



I HOPE THIS ISN'T
ONE OF YOUR USUAL
RIDDLES! WE DON'T
HAVE TIME TO
SPARE...

WHY IS IT CALLED
MOVABLE TYPE? IF THE
LETTERS AREN'T LOCKED
IN PLACE ON THE PAGE...



...YOU CAN'T
UNDERSTAND
WHAT'S WRITTEN!



THE LETTERS
DON'T MOVE
AROUND ON THE
PAGE. INSTEAD,
THAT'S HOW
THEY'RE USED IN
THE PRINTING
PRESS...

**THE PRINTING PRESS
WITH MOVABLE TYPE**

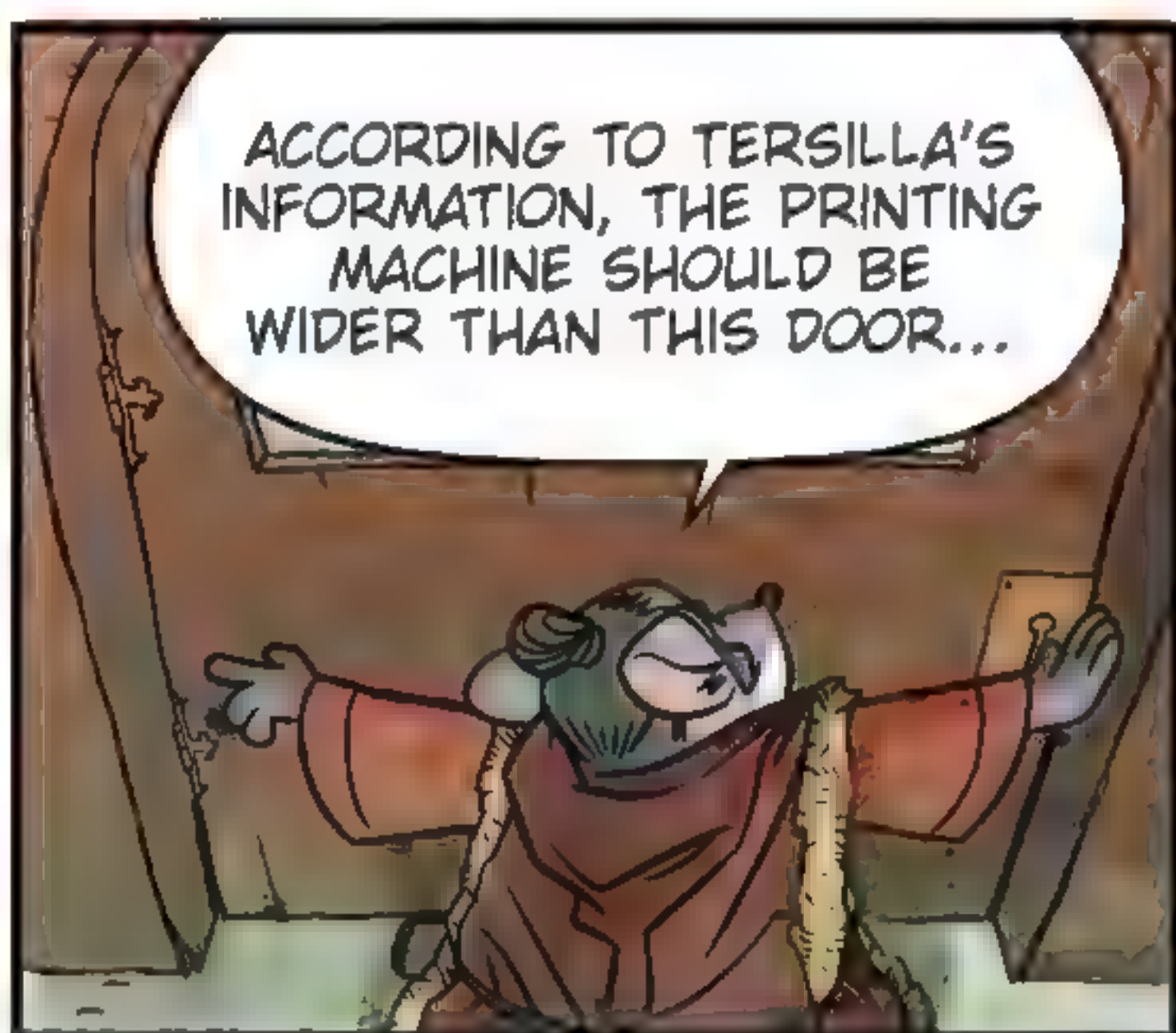
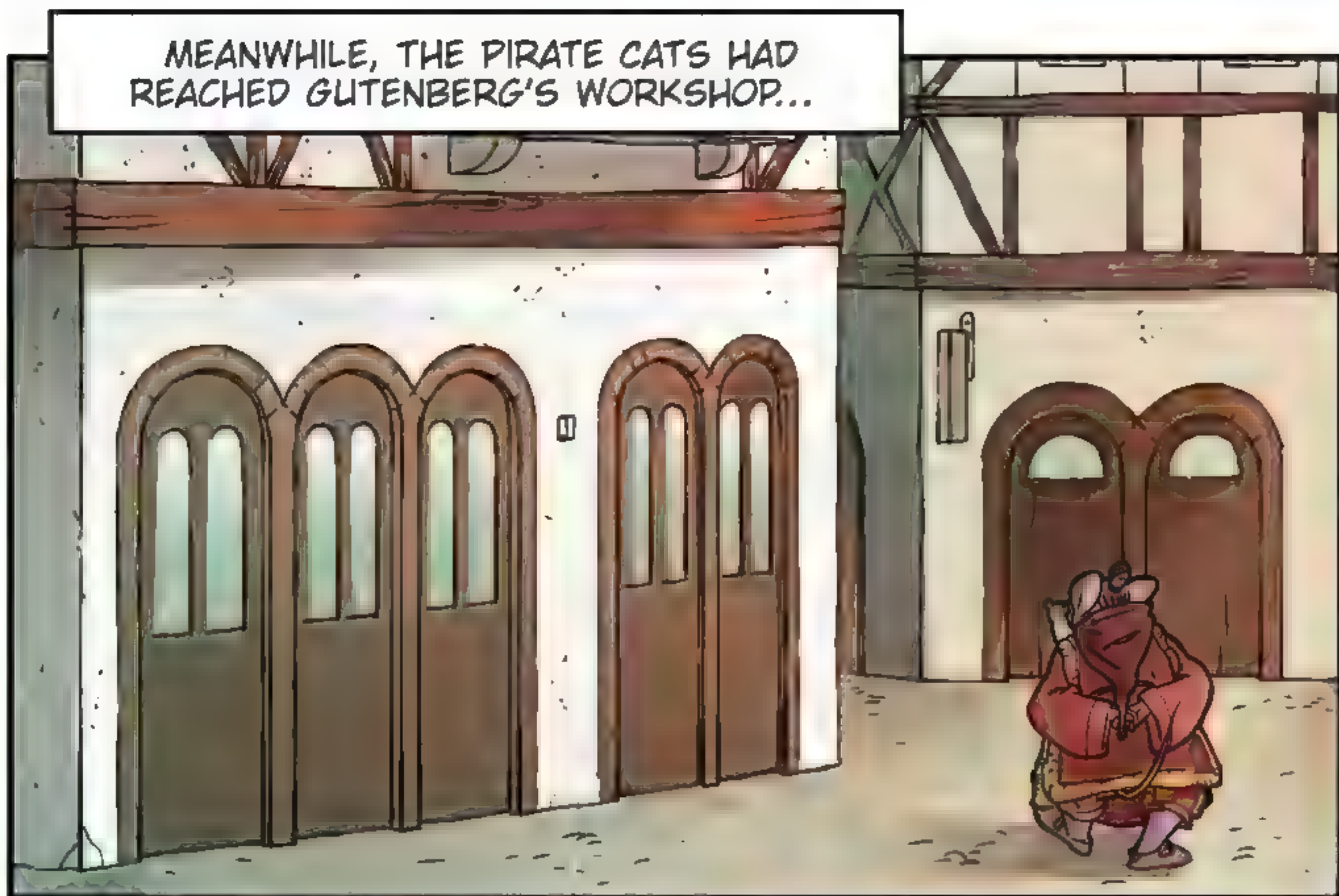
THE PRINTING PROCESS INVENTED BY GUTENBERG USED SINGLE TYPE PIECES THAT WERE LAID OUT TO FORM THE WORDS FOR A PAGE. INK WAS SPREAD ACROSS THE TYPE PIECES THAT HAD BEEN LAID OUT IN THIS WAY, AND THEY WERE PRESSED ONTO A PIECE OF PAPER OR PARCHMENT. THIS SYSTEM ALLOWED THE TYPE PIECES TO BE REUSED TO COMPOSE OTHER PAGES.

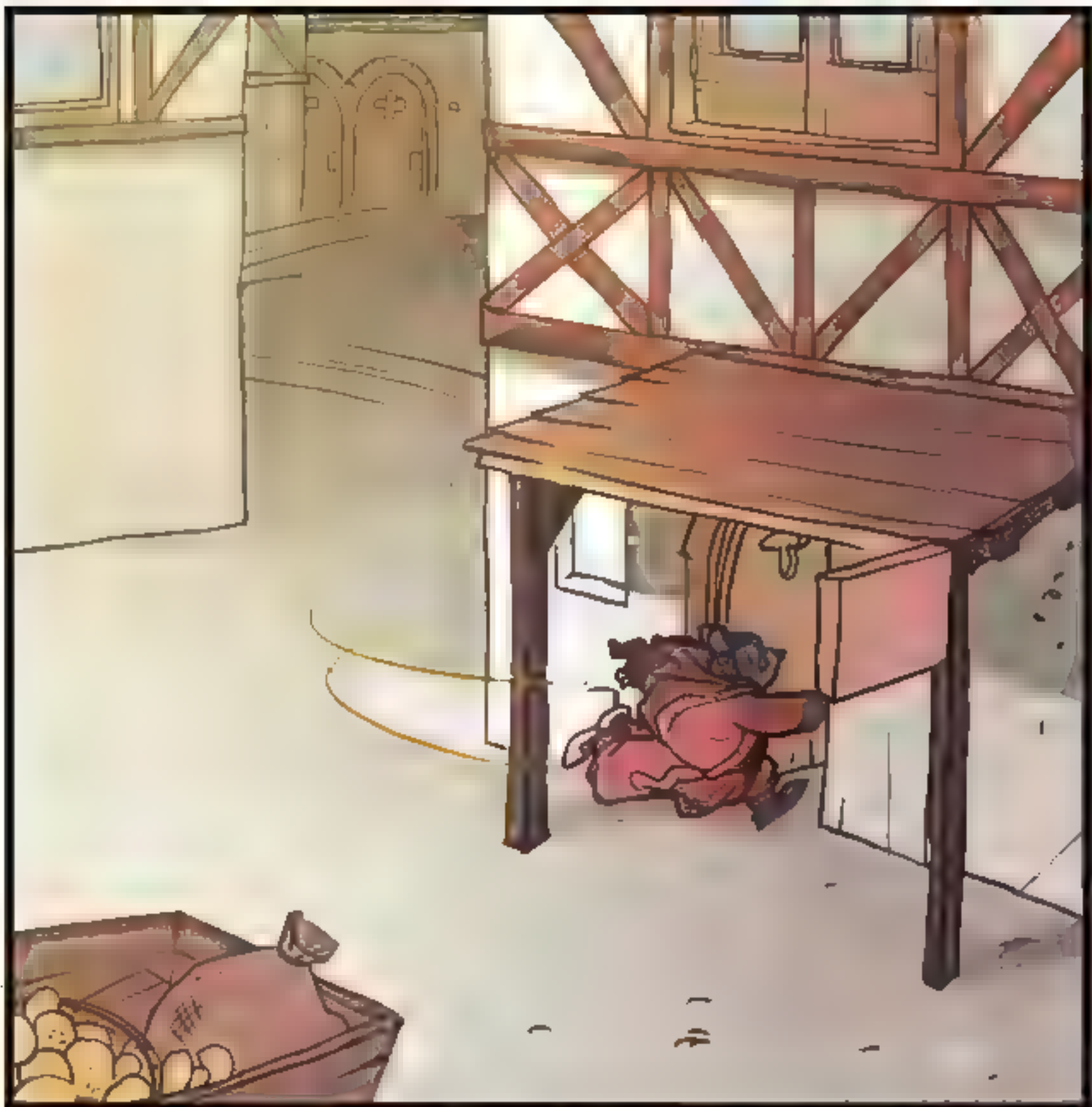


GUTENBERG WAS BORN AND RAISED IN MAINZ. SO, IF WE ASK AROUND, IT WON'T TAKE LONG TO FIND HIS WORKSHOP.

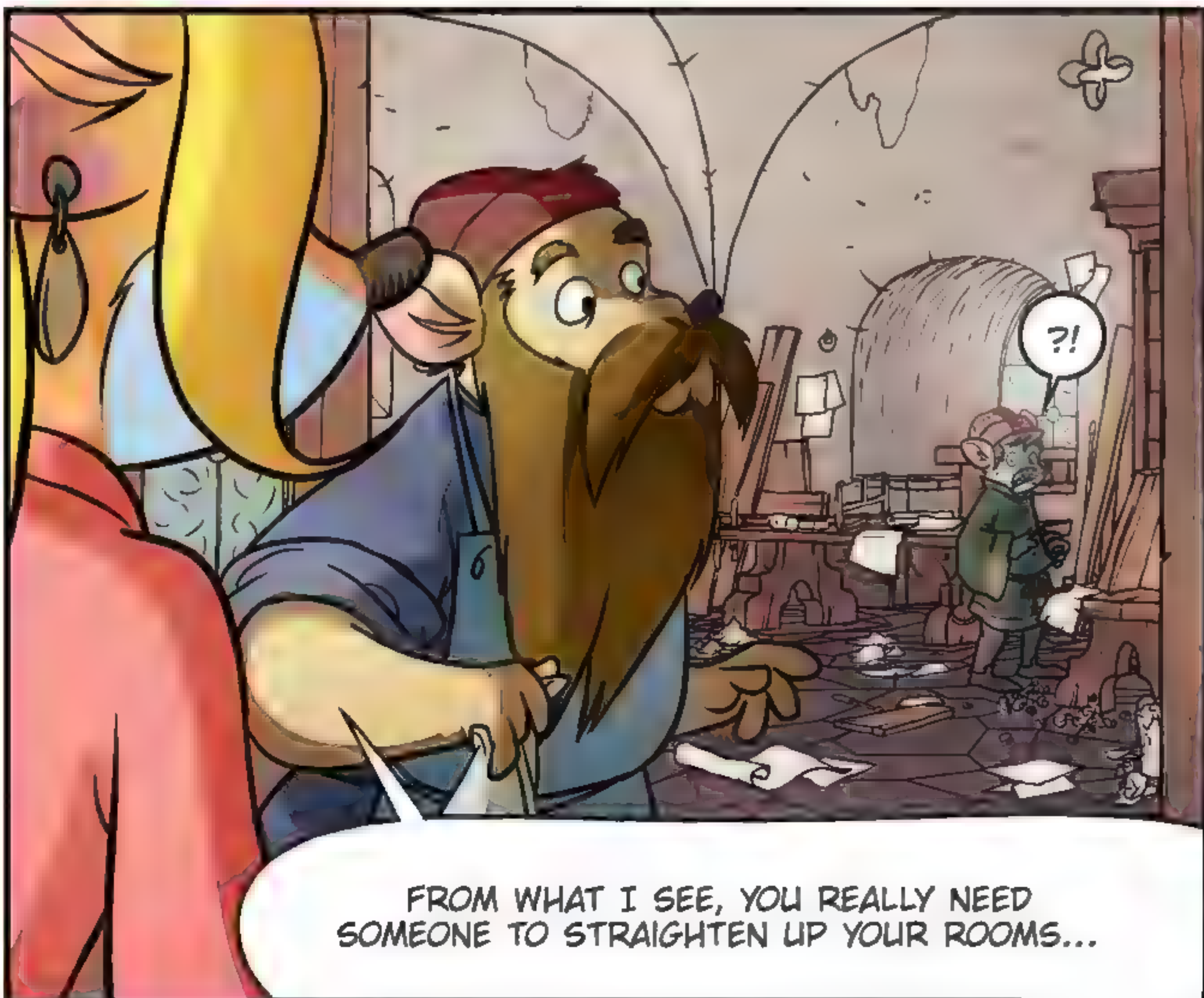


MEANWHILE, THE PIRATE CATS HAD REACHED GUTENBERG'S WORKSHOP...







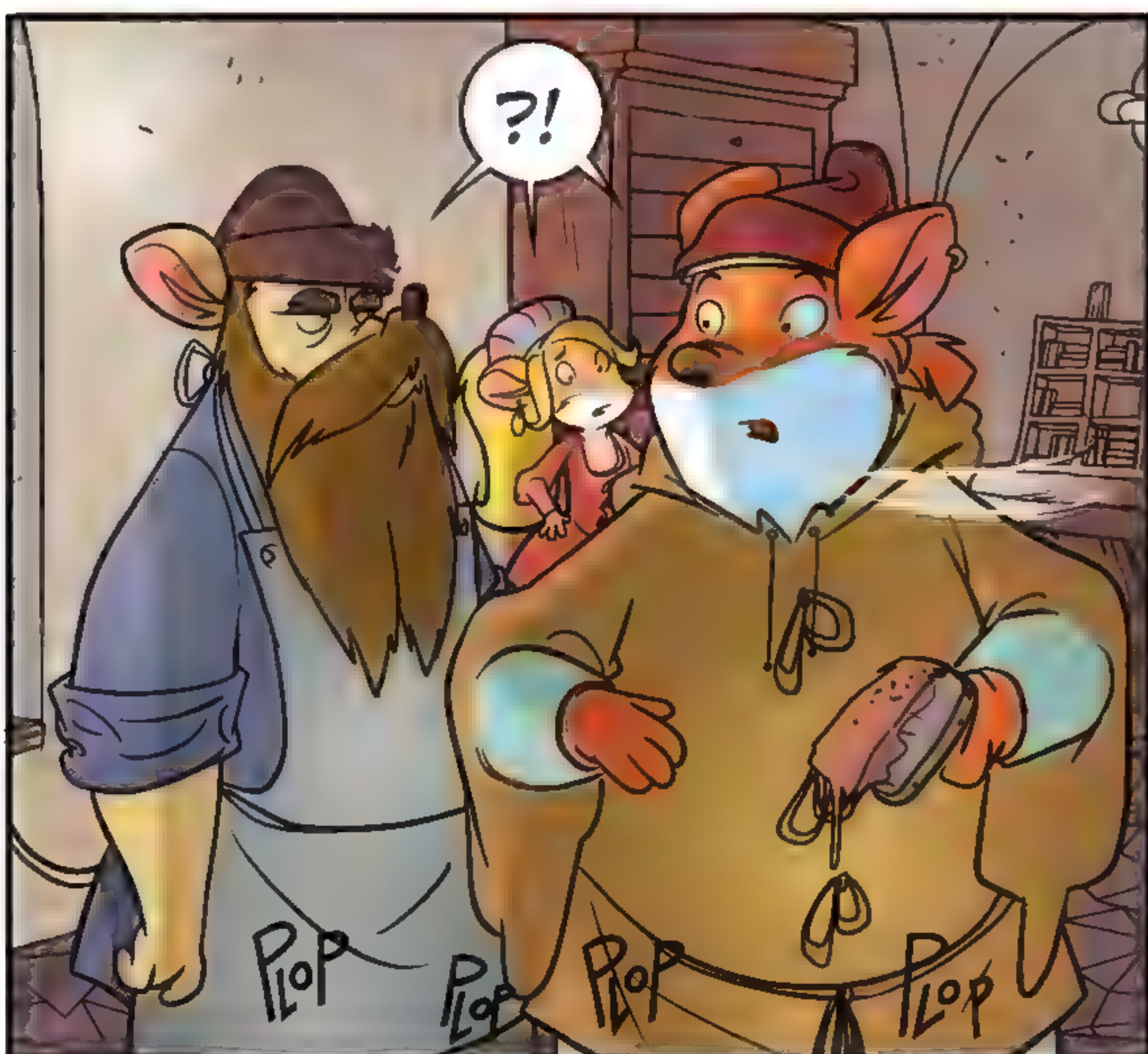
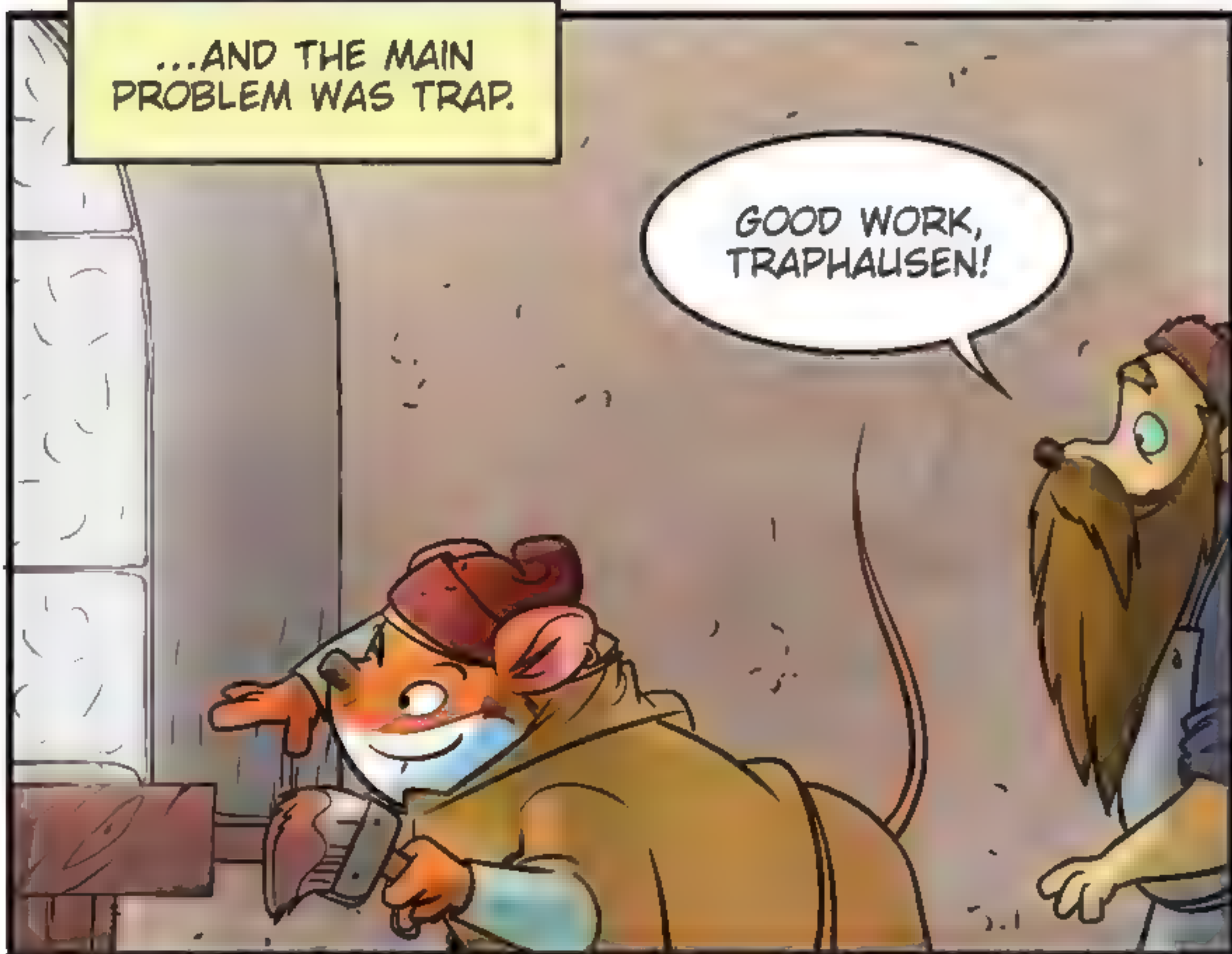




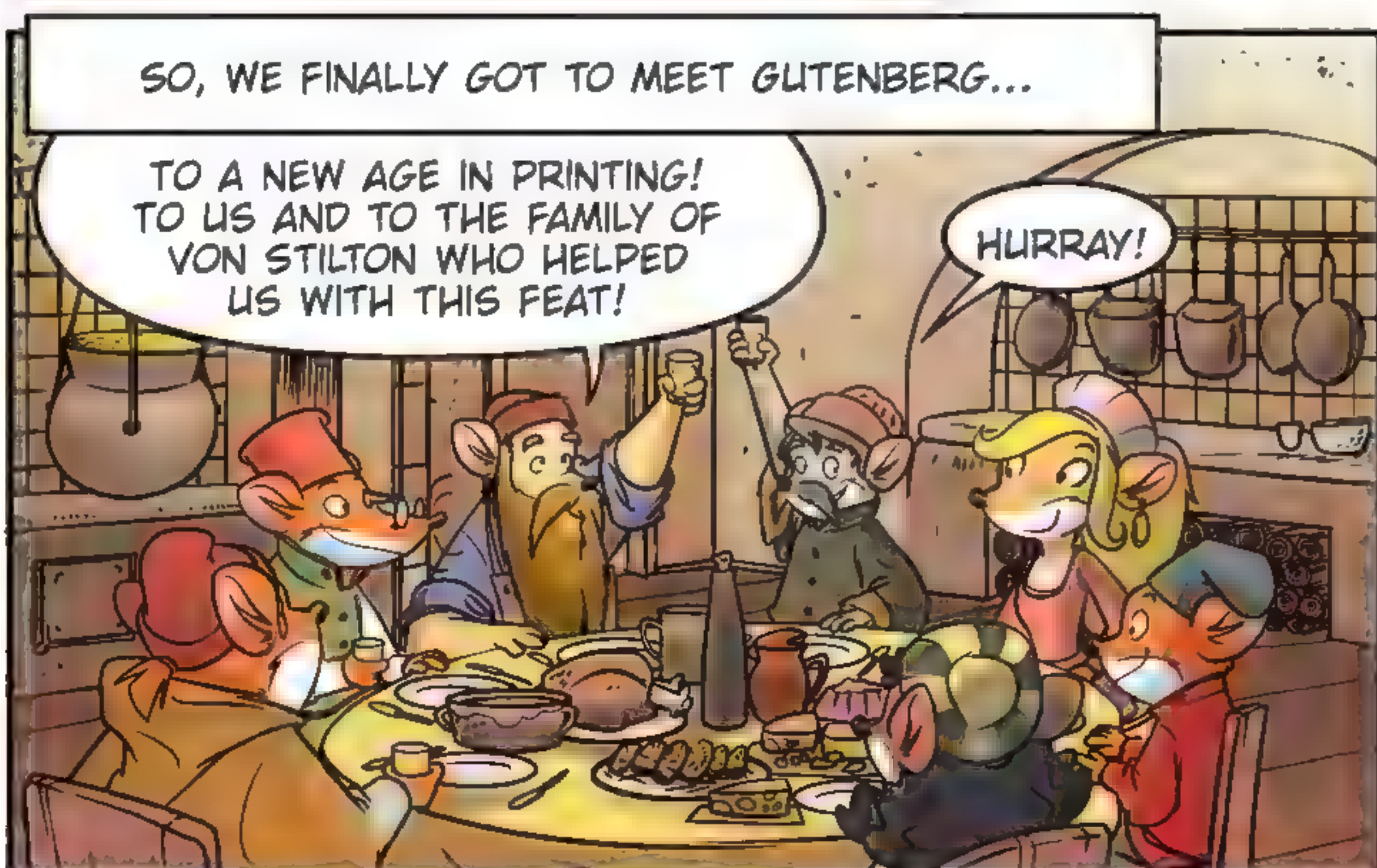
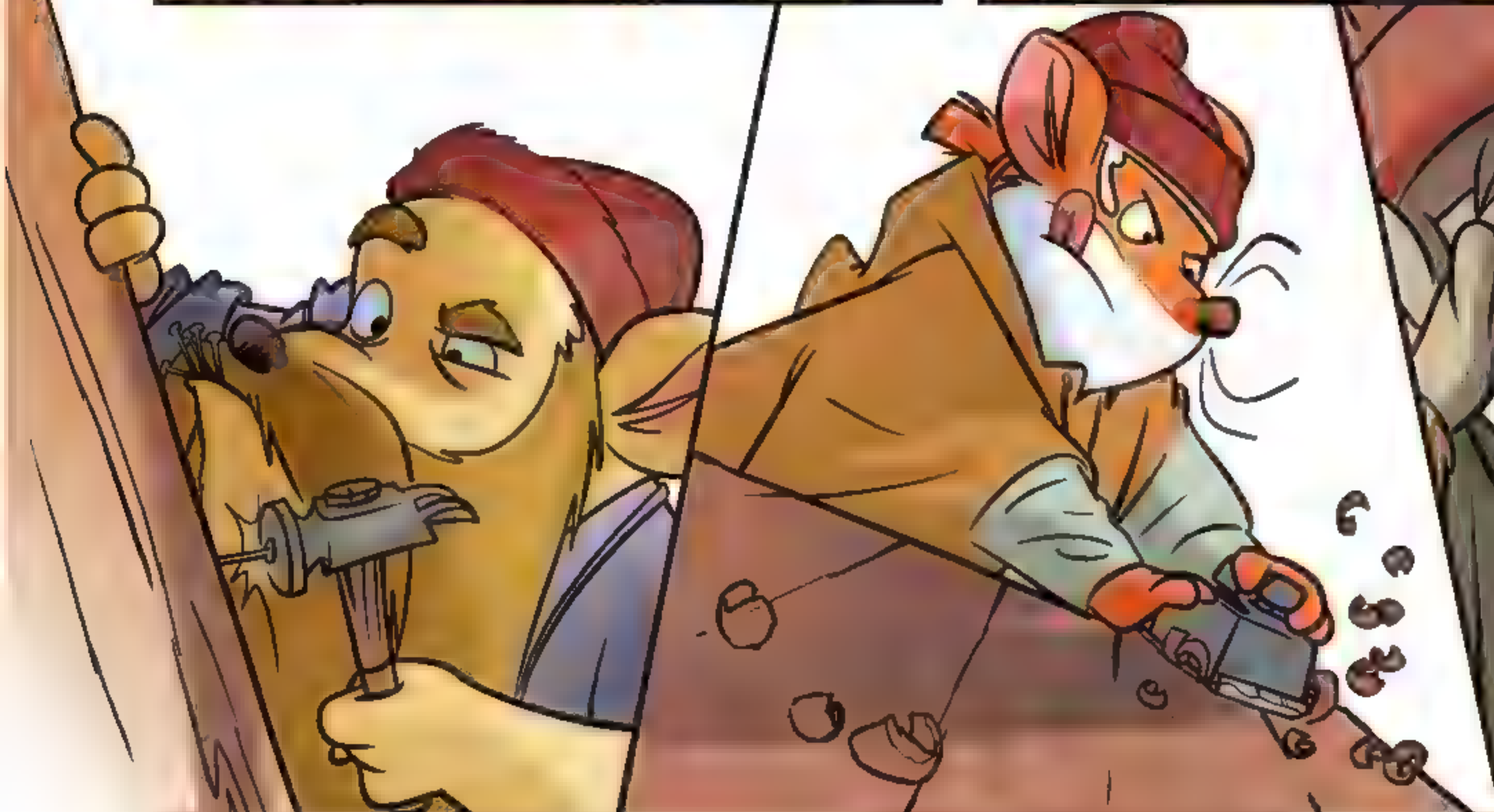
PETUNIA AND TRAP HAD MANAGED TO GET GUTENBERG TO ACCEPT THEM, BUT THEIR PROBLEMS WEREN'T OVER...



...AND THE MAIN PROBLEM WAS TRAP.







IN THE MEANTIME, THE PIRATE
CATS PREPARED TO STRIKE!

SHHH!

THEY'LL ALL HAVE
GONE TO SLEEP!
BONZO, HOLD THE
ROPE TIGHT!

DON'T MAKE
ANY NOISE OR
I'LL HOOK YOU
WITH A CLAW!*

*SCRATCH YOU!

⇒HUFF
PUFF⇒...

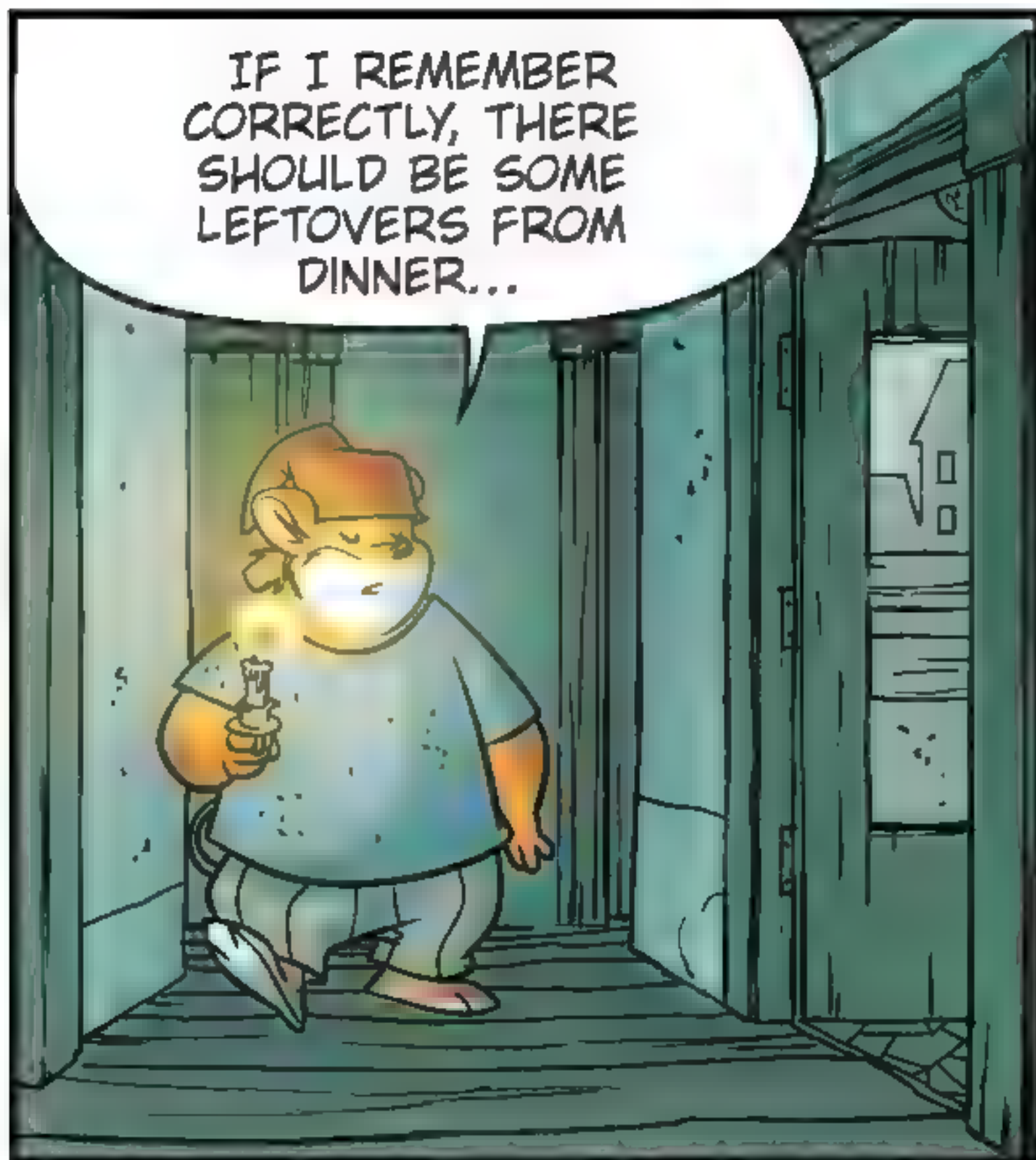
⇒HUFF
PUFF⇒...

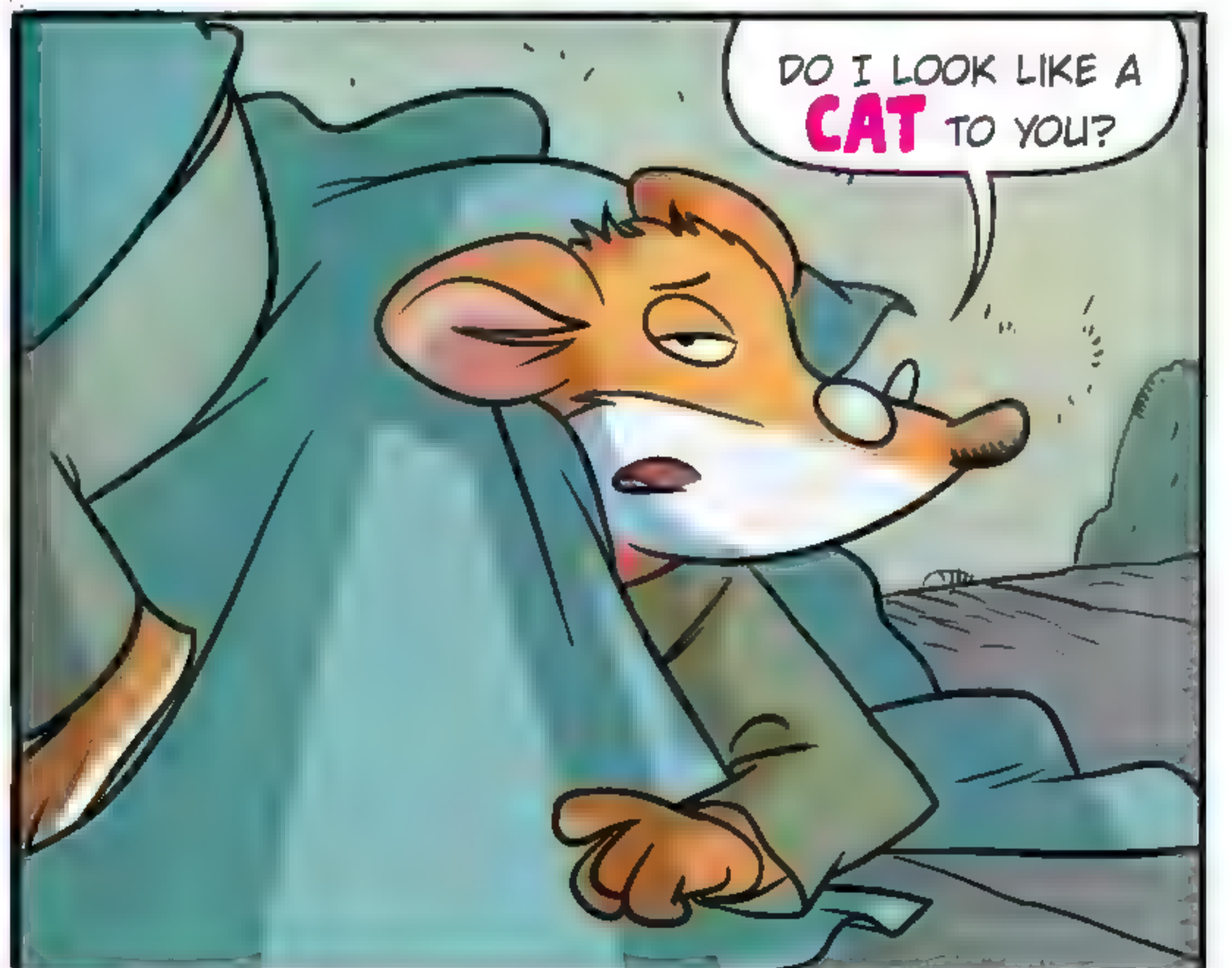
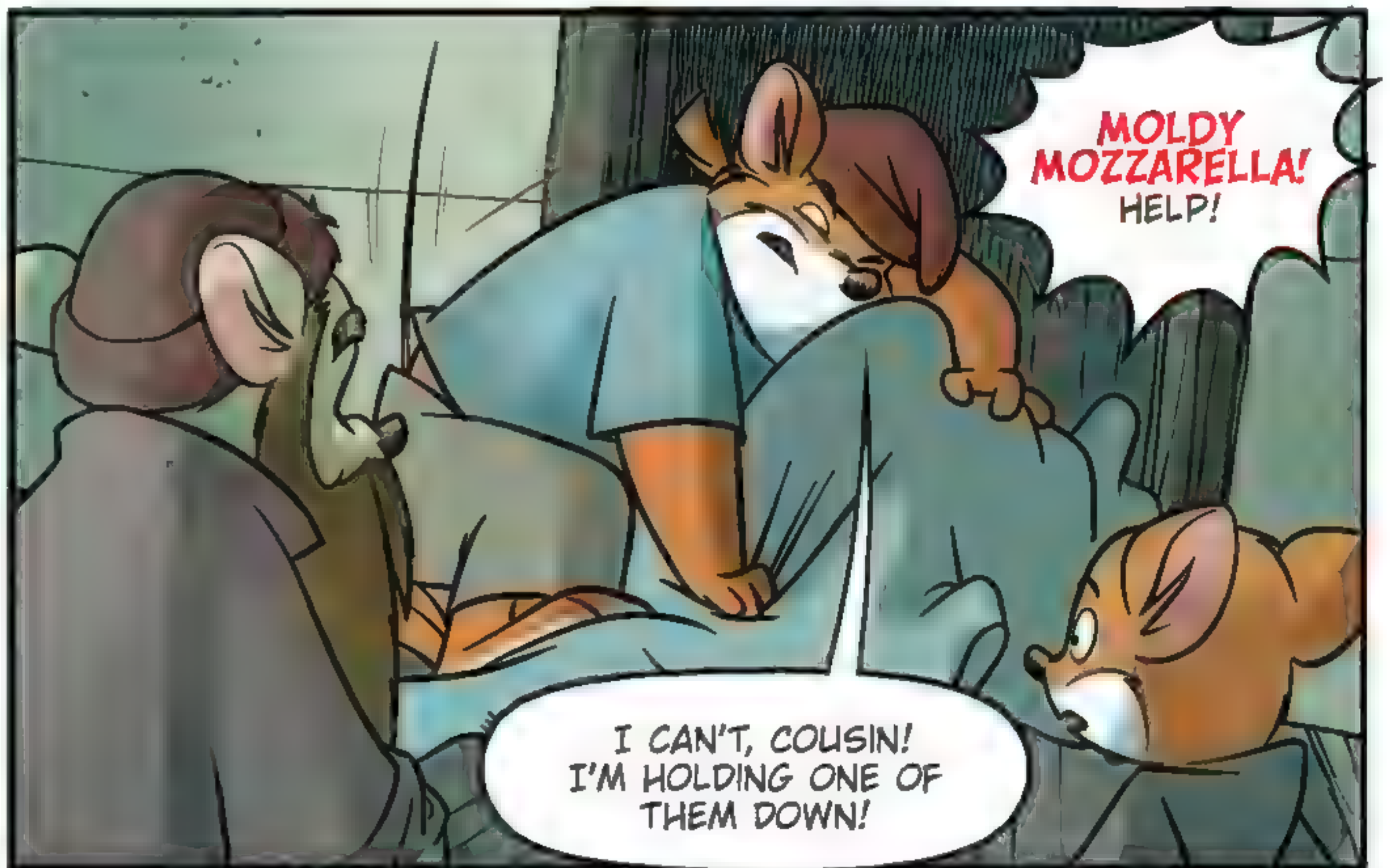
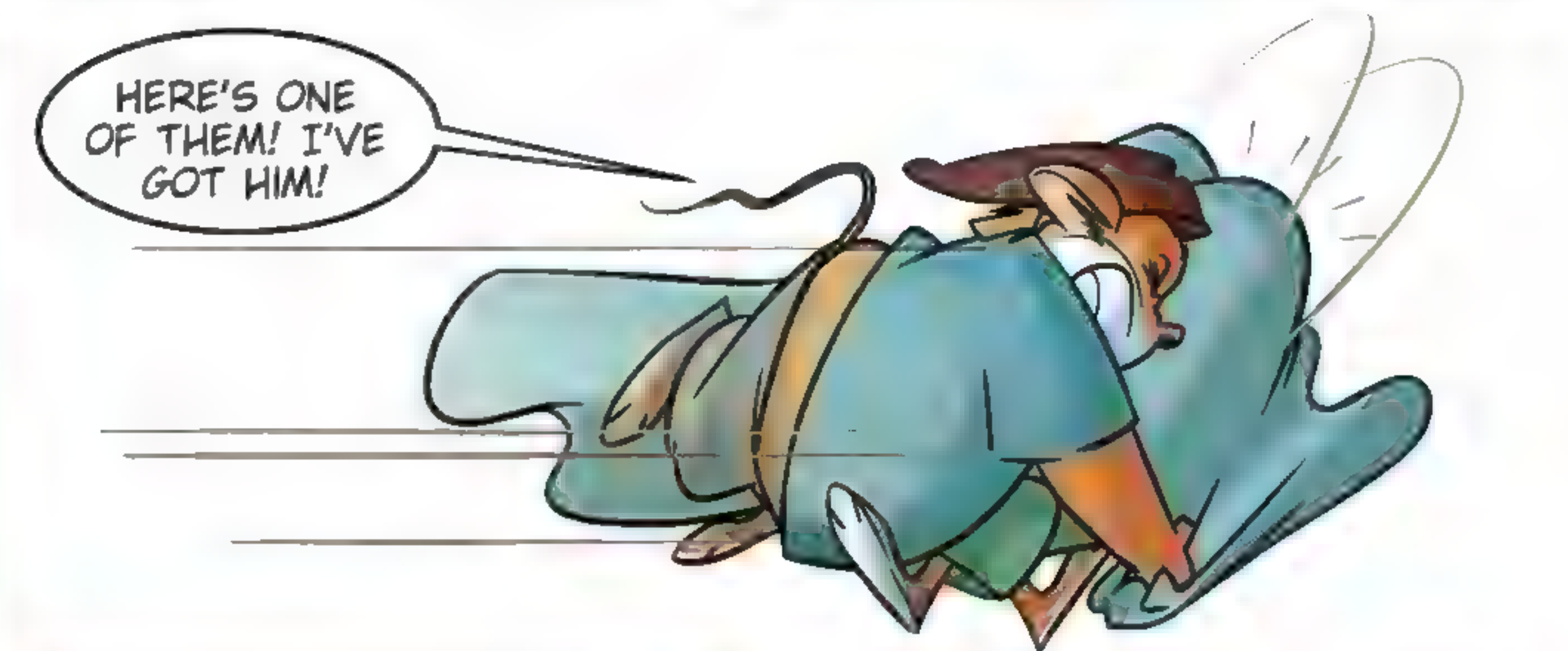
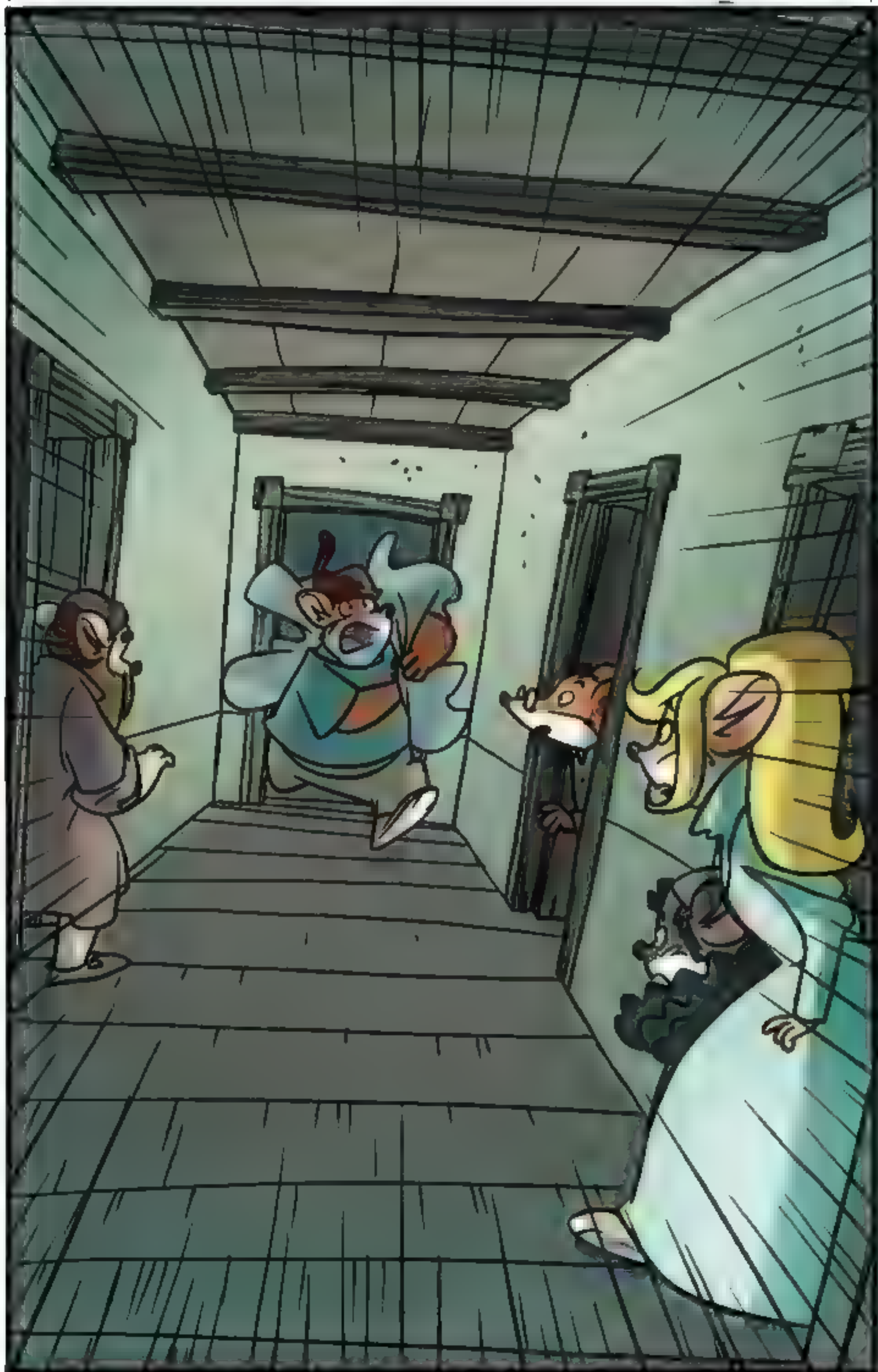
THE STAIRS THAT LEAD TO
THE WORKSHOP SHOULD
BE ON THE RIGHT.

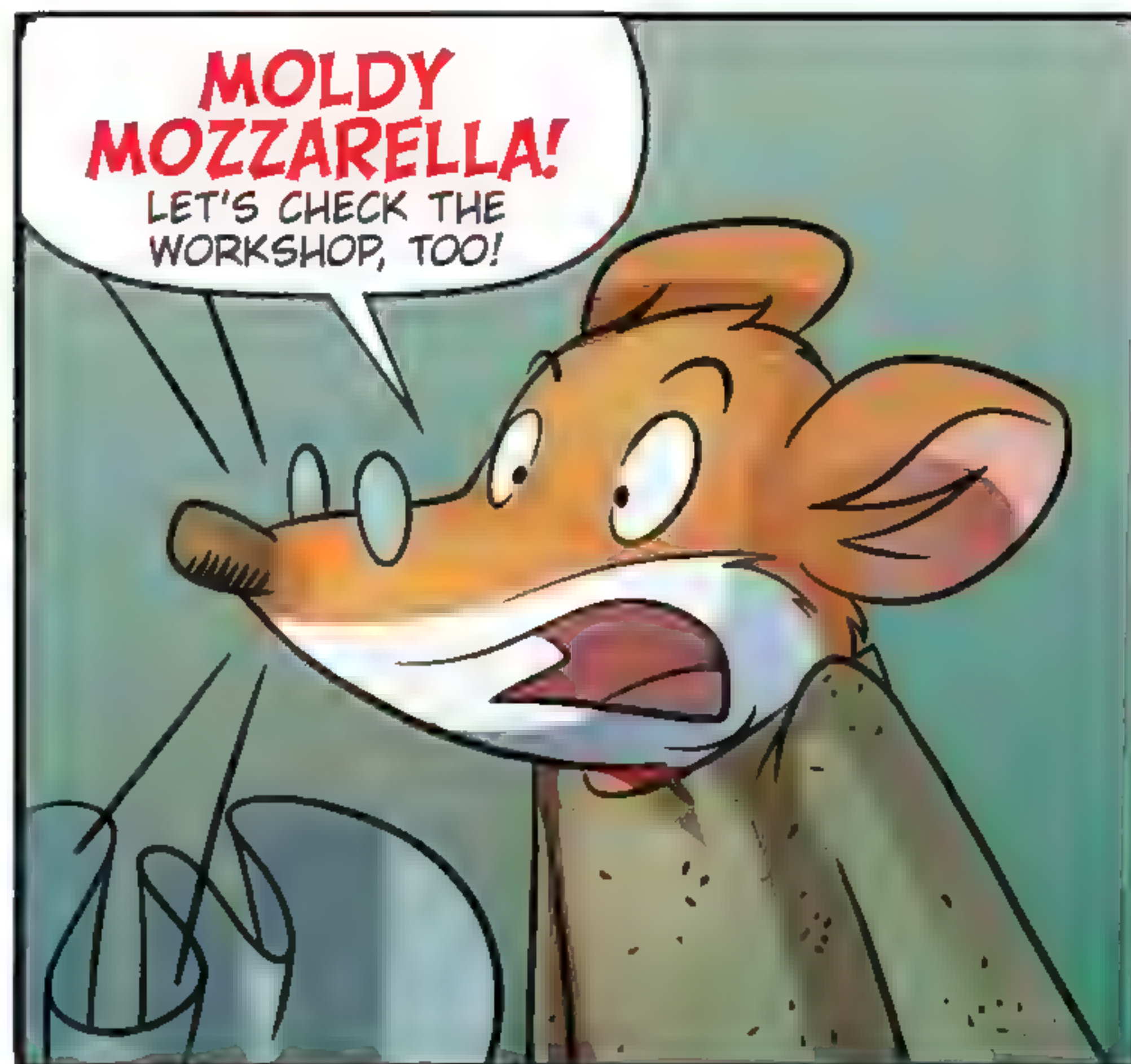
BUT ARE WE
GOING TO GO IN
LIKE THIS, IN
THE DARK?

YOU WANT A LAMP?
WHY NOT JUST KNOCK
ON THE DOOR, THEN?

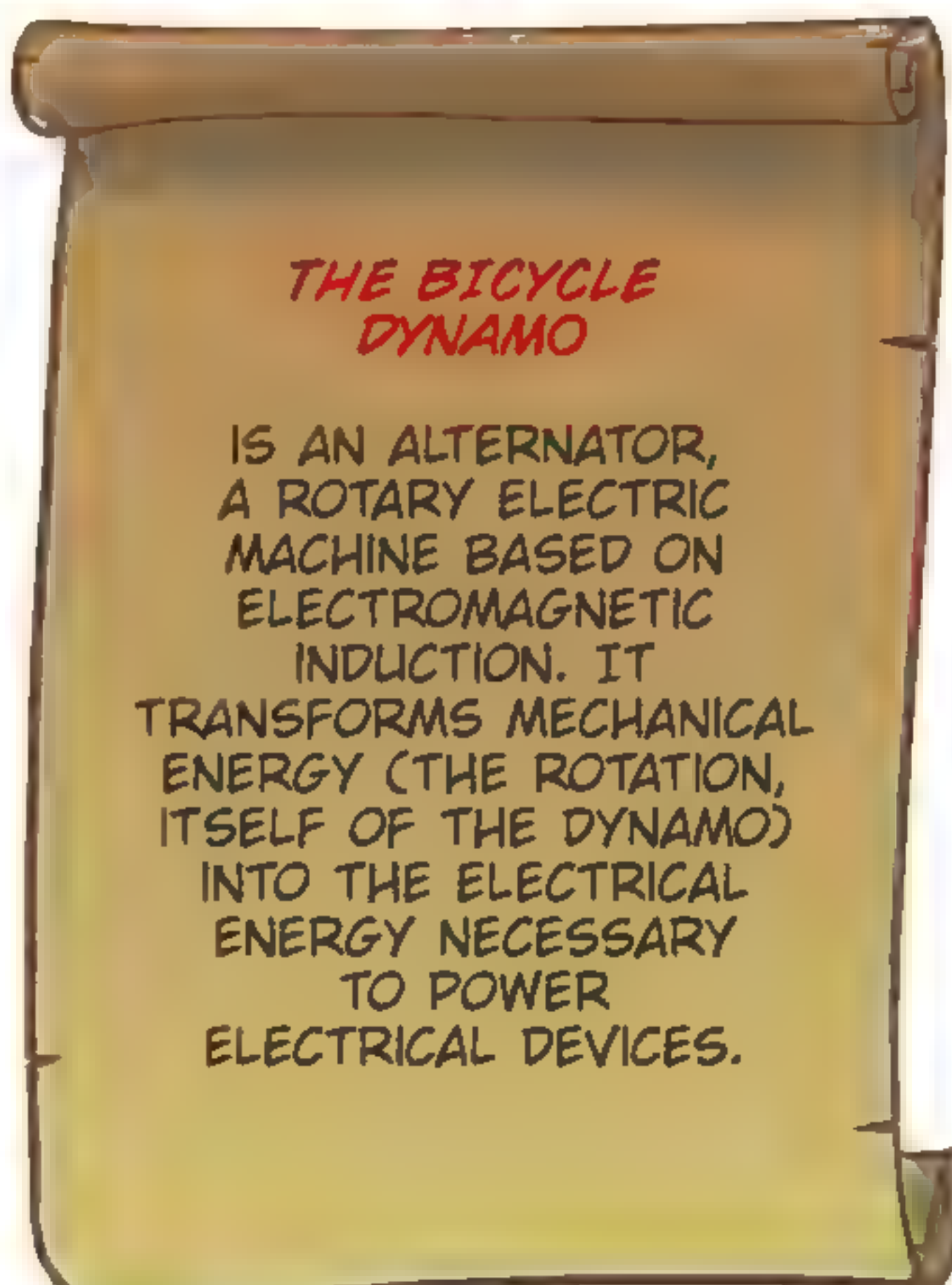
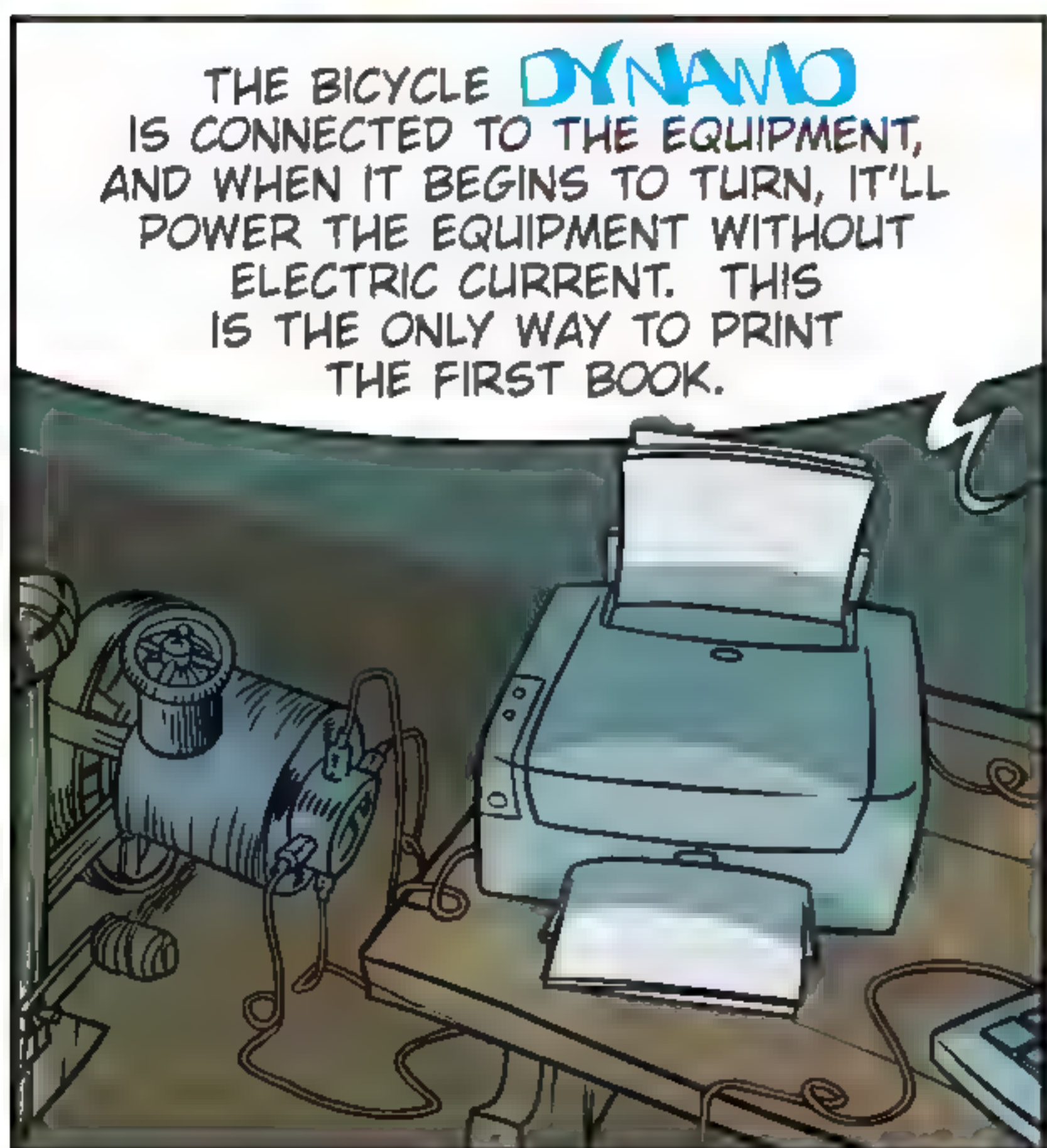
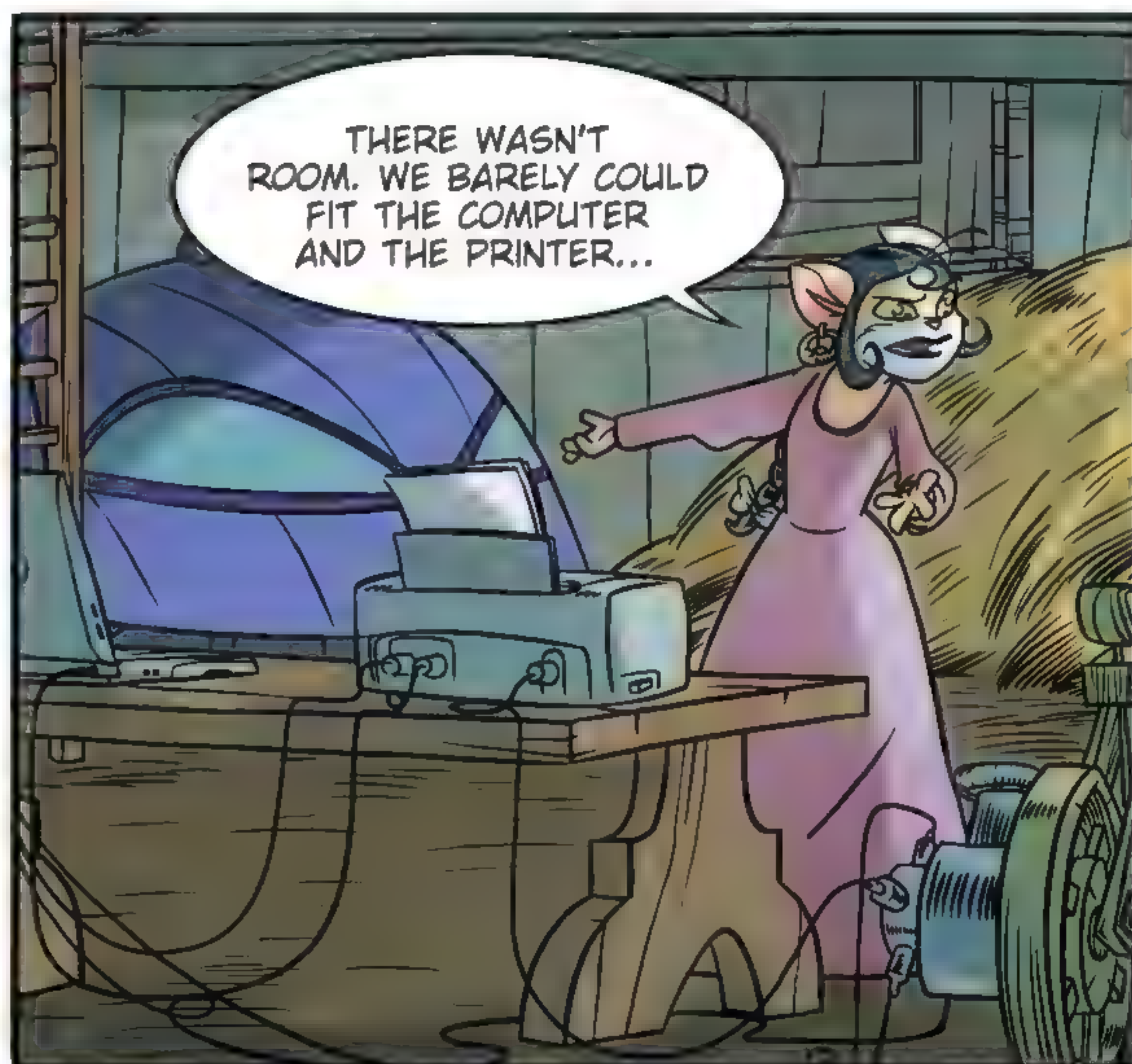
UGH...

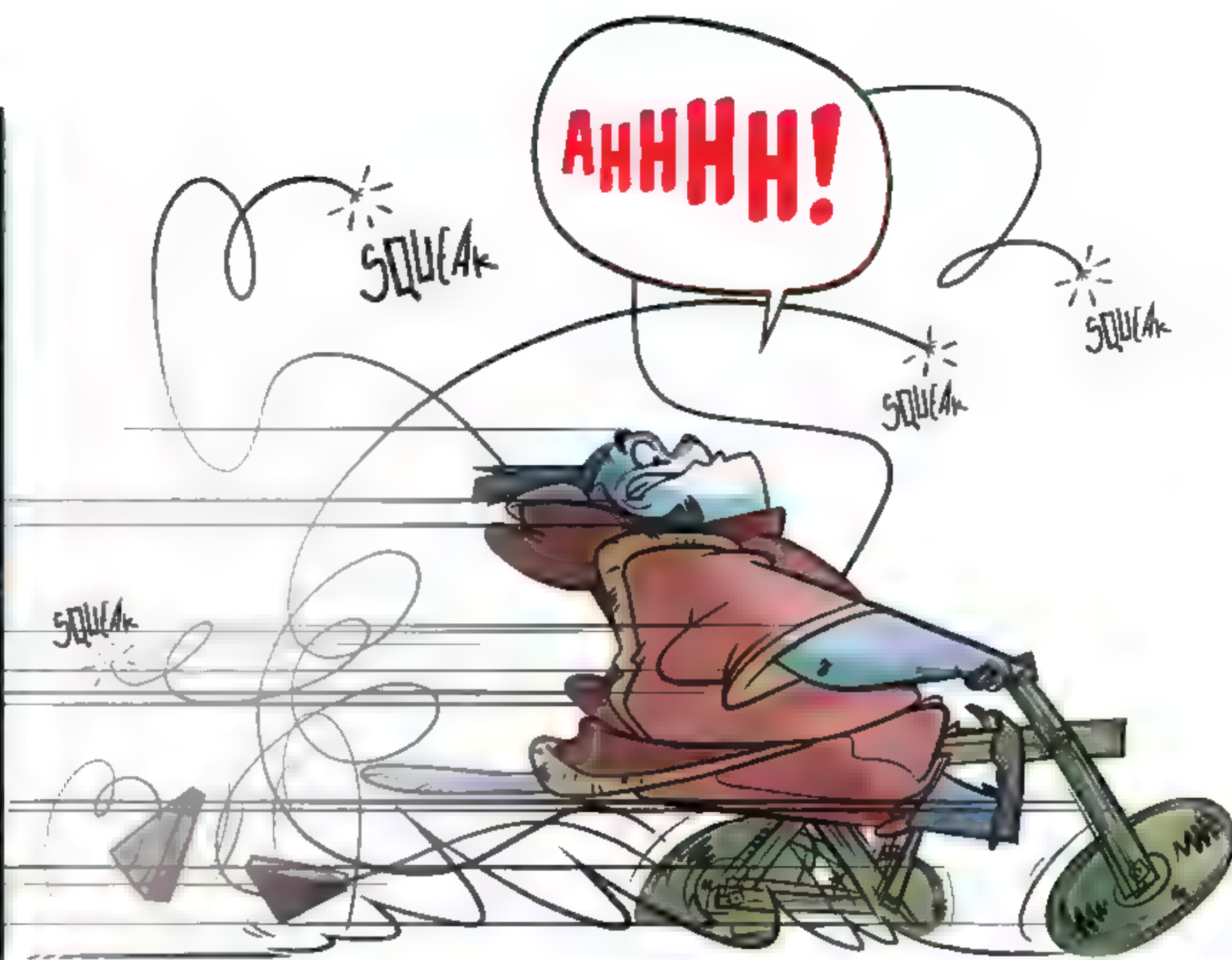












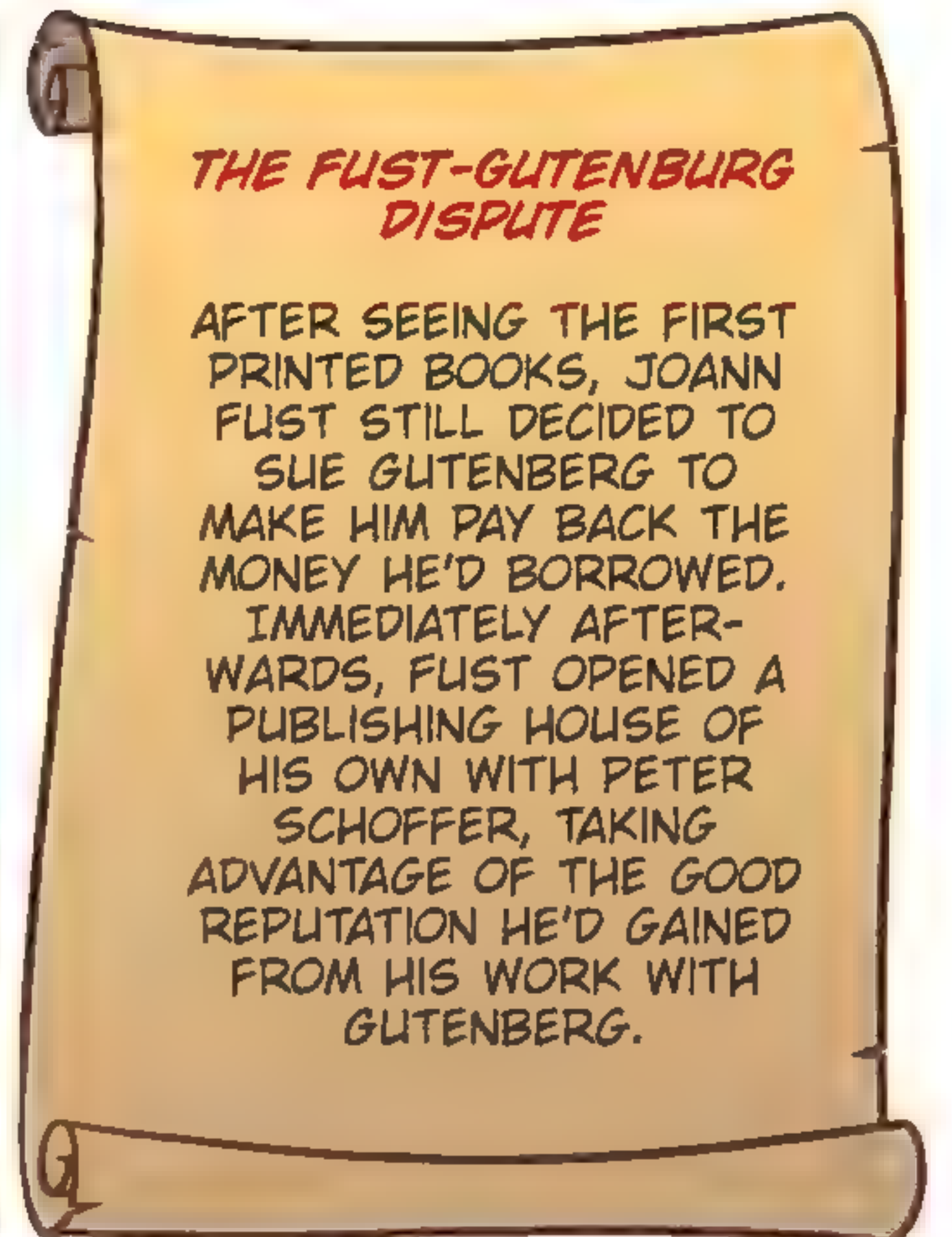


MEANWHILE, BACK AT GUTENBERG'S WORKSHOP THINGS WEREN'T GOING ANY BETTER.

WHAT HAPPENED?

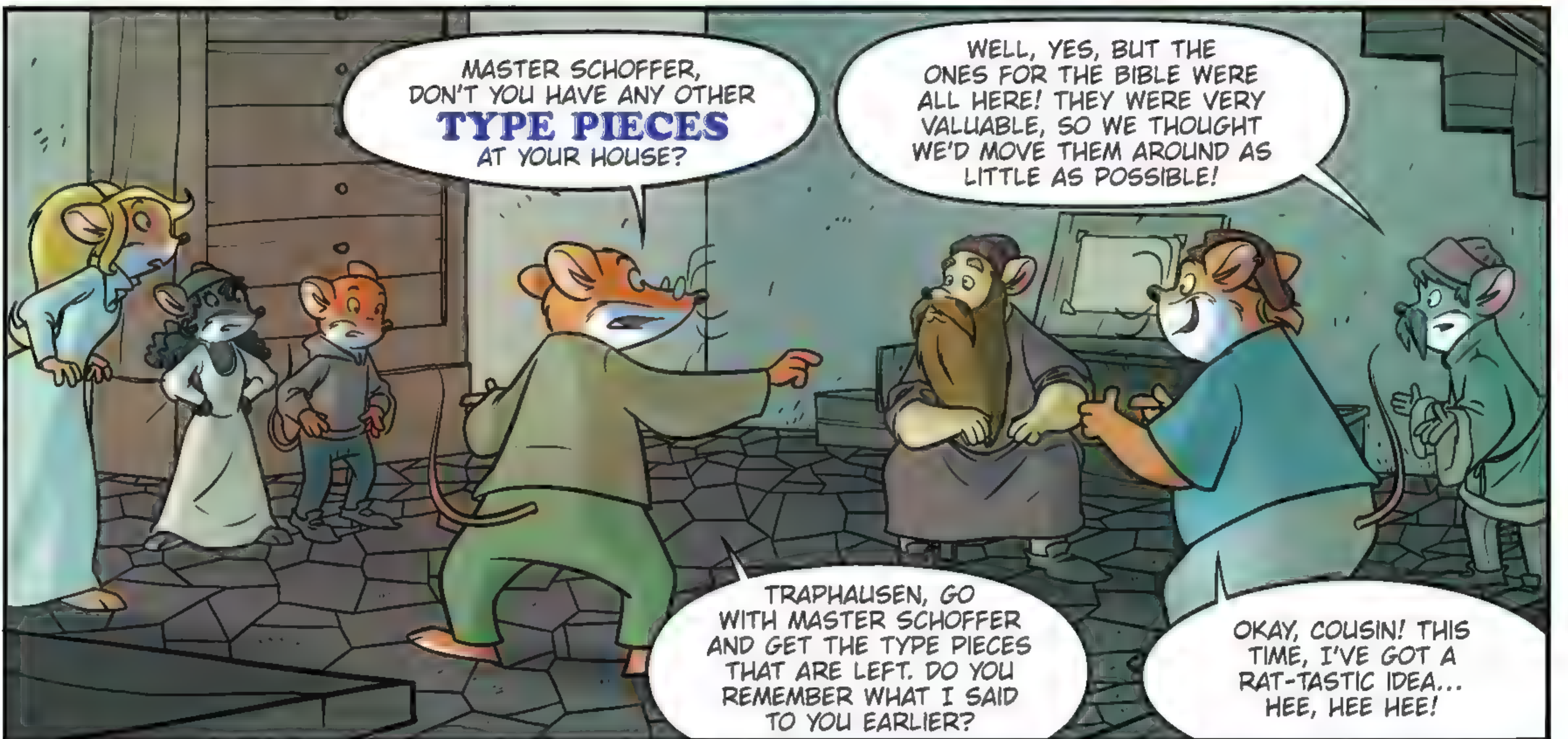


THEY STOLE THE TYPE PIECES. WE WON'T BE ABLE TO SET UP THE DEMONSTRATION FOR FUST!



THE FUST-GUTENBERG DISPUTE

AFTER SEEING THE FIRST PRINTED BOOKS, JOANN FUST STILL DECIDED TO SUE GUTENBERG TO MAKE HIM PAY BACK THE MONEY HE'D BORROWED. IMMEDIATELY AFTERWARDS, FUST OPENED A PUBLISHING HOUSE OF HIS OWN WITH PETER SCHOFFER, TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE GOOD REPUTATION HE'D GAINED FROM HIS WORK WITH GUTENBERG.

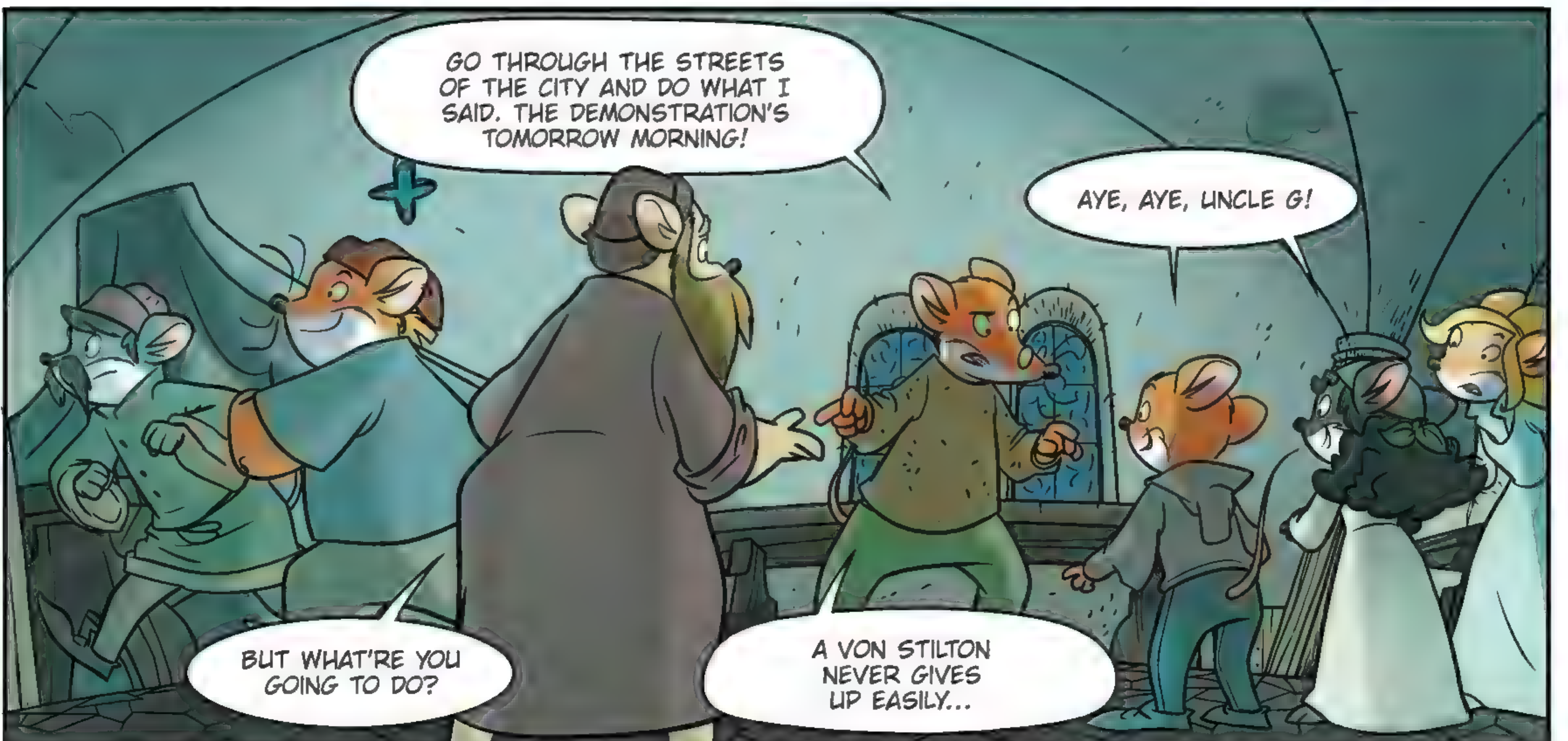


MASTER SCHOFFER, DON'T YOU HAVE ANY OTHER **TYPE PIECES** AT YOUR HOUSE?

WELL, YES, BUT THE ONES FOR THE BIBLE WERE ALL HERE! THEY WERE VERY VALUABLE, SO WE THOUGHT WE'D MOVE THEM AROUND AS LITTLE AS POSSIBLE!

TRAPHAUSEN, GO WITH MASTER SCHOFFER AND GET THE TYPE PIECES THAT ARE LEFT. DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT I SAID TO YOU EARLIER?

OKAY, COUSIN! THIS TIME, I'VE GOT A RAT-TASTIC IDEA... HEE, HEE HEE!

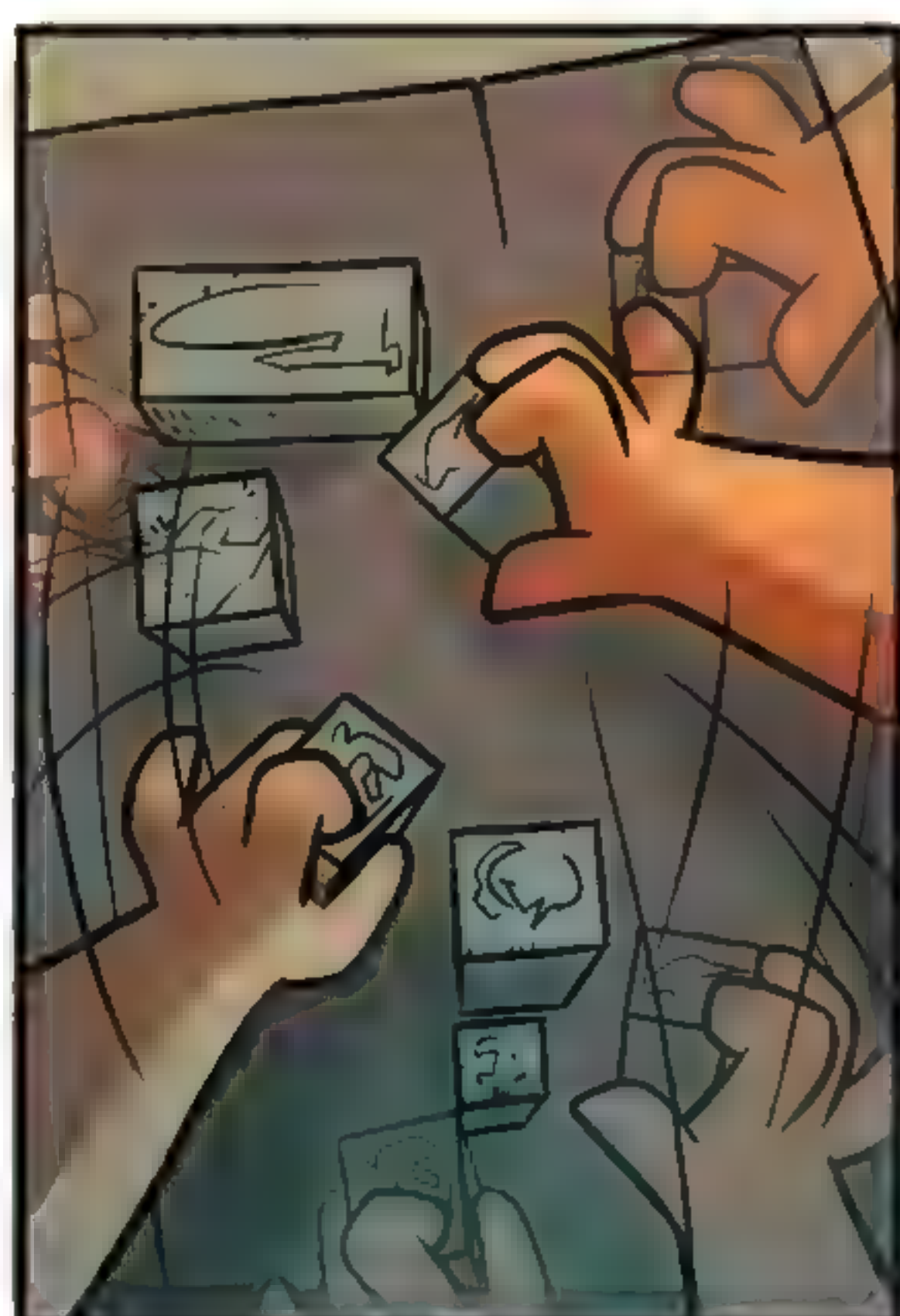
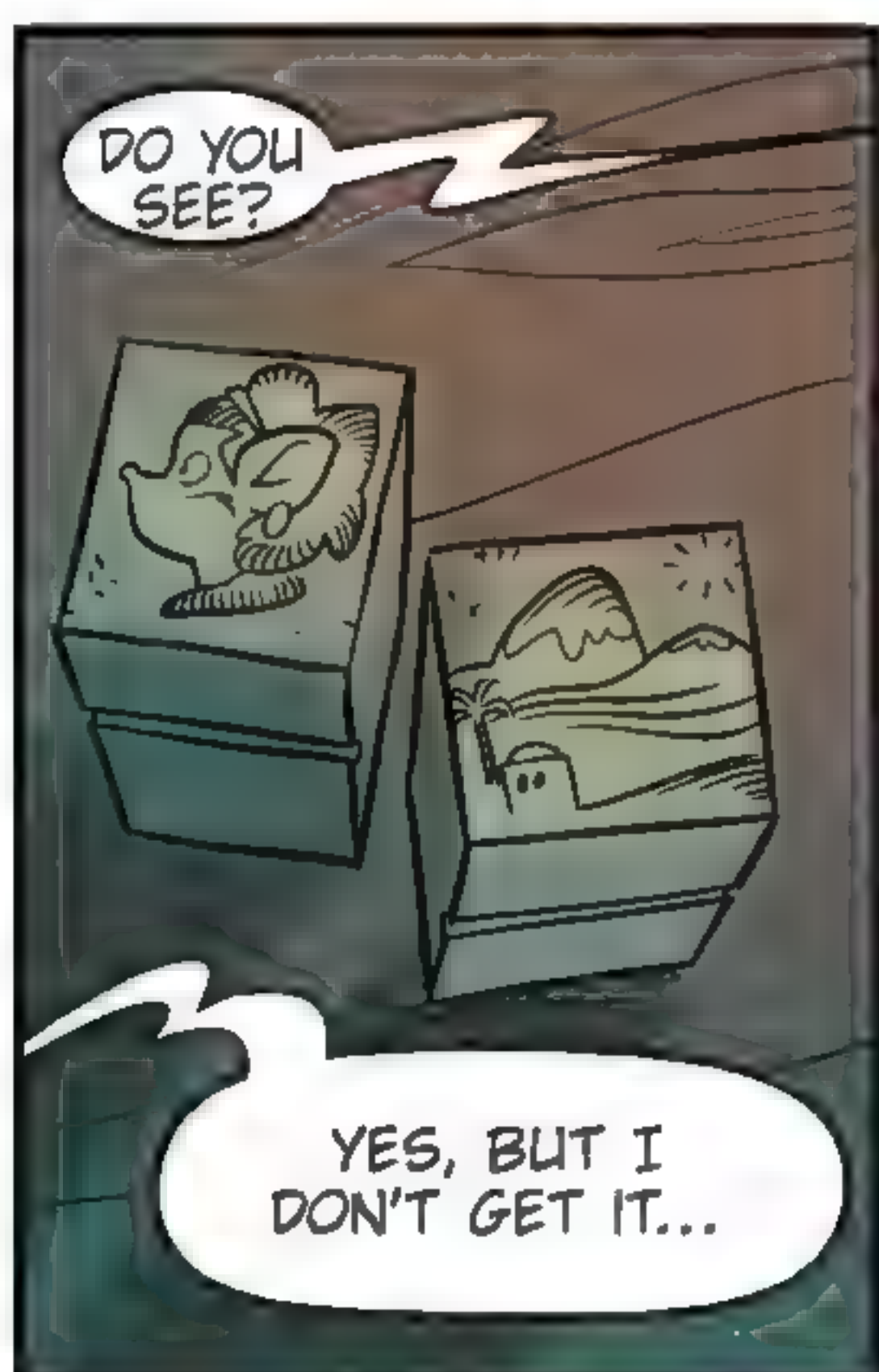
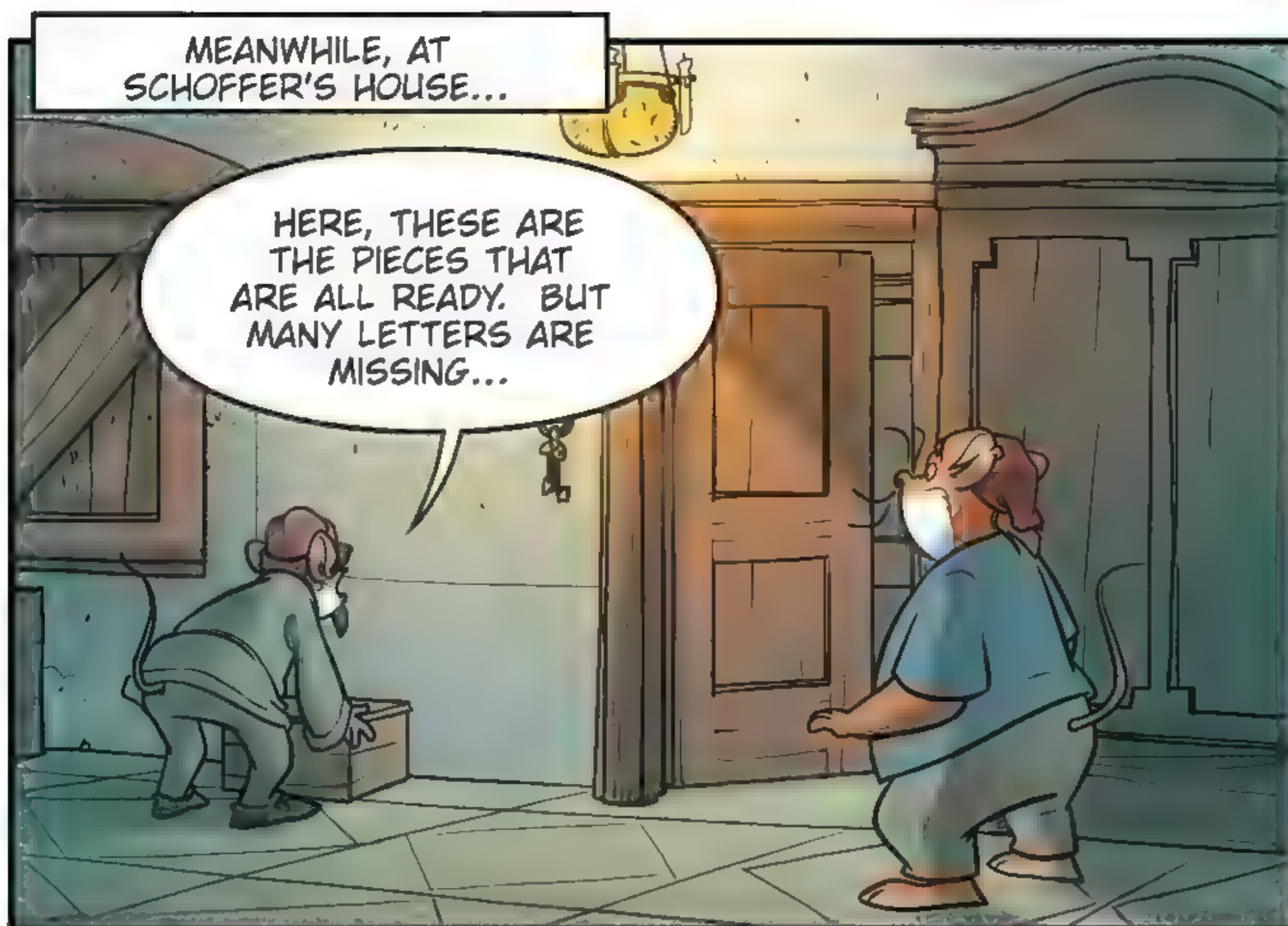


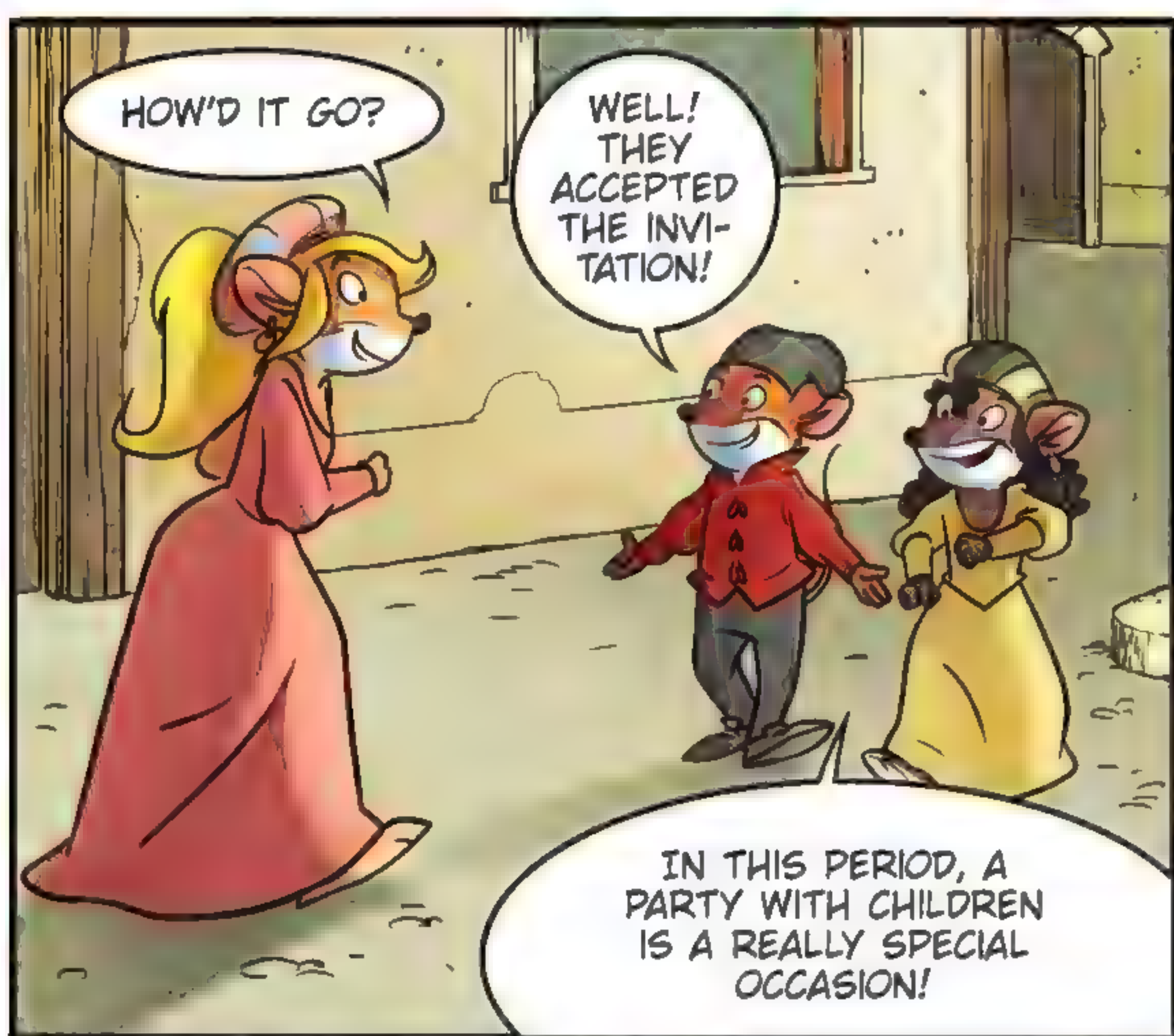
GO THROUGH THE STREETS OF THE CITY AND DO WHAT I SAID. THE DEMONSTRATION'S TOMORROW MORNING!

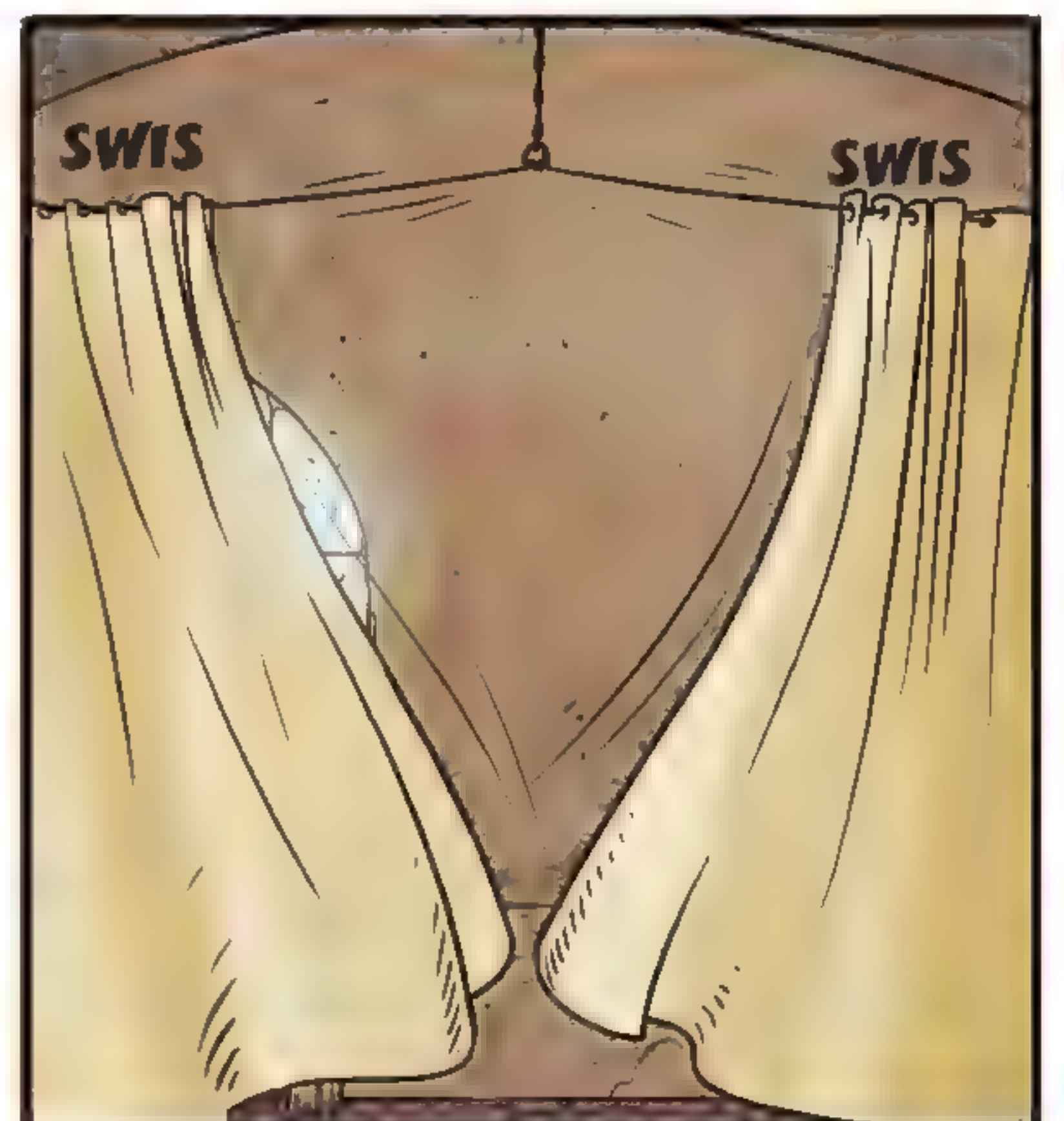
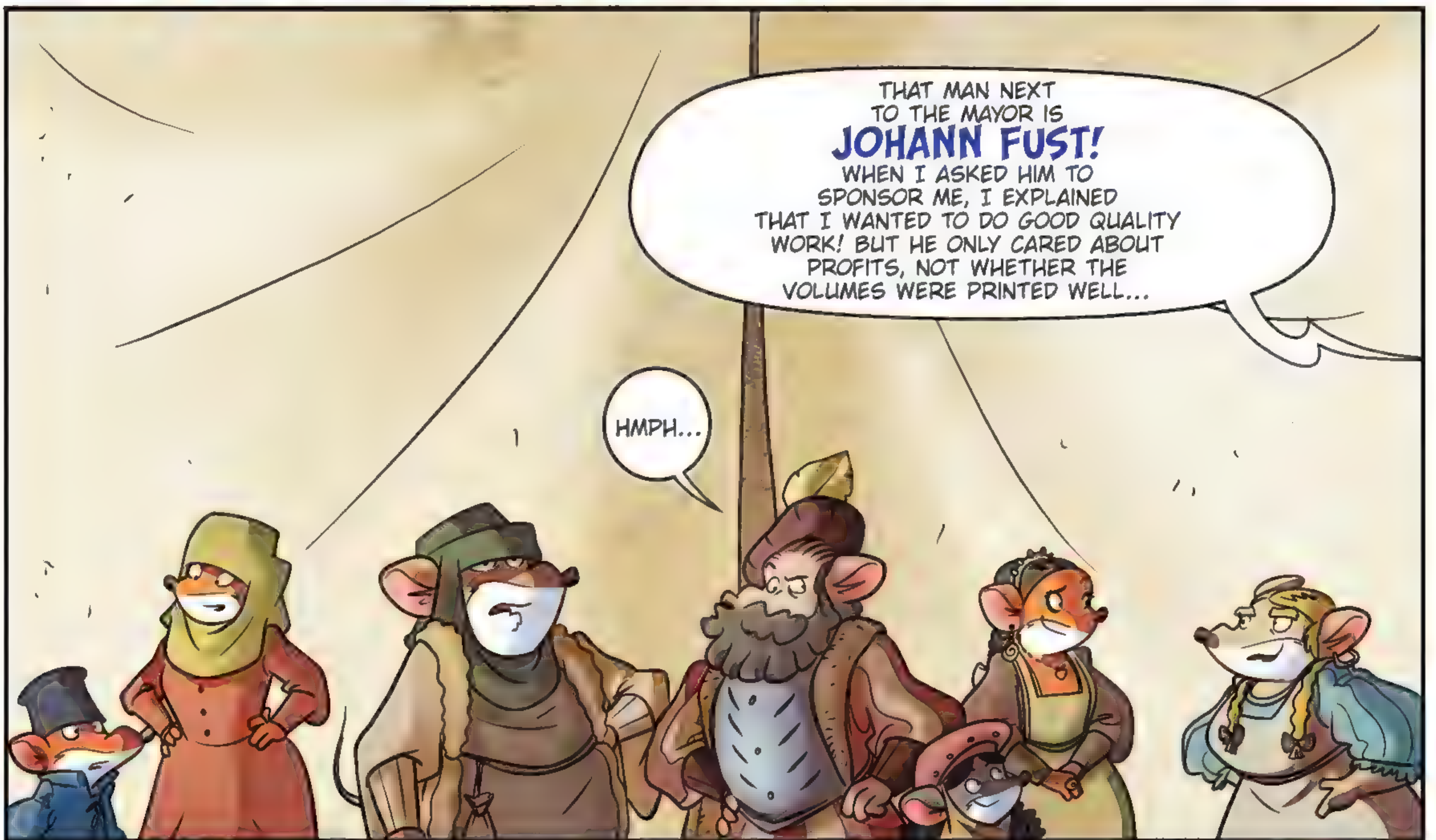
AYE, AYE, UNCLE G!

BUT WHAT'RE YOU GOING TO DO?

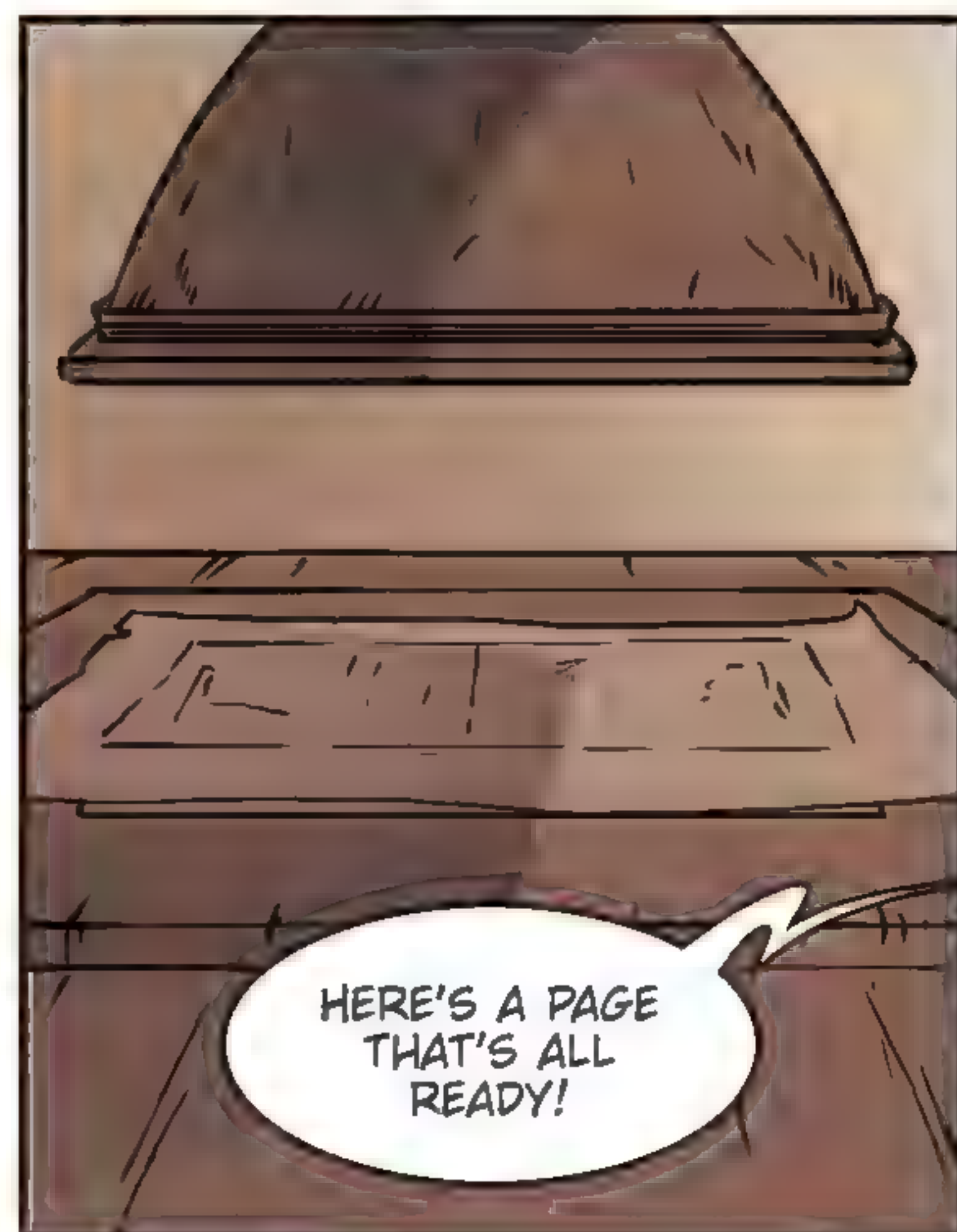
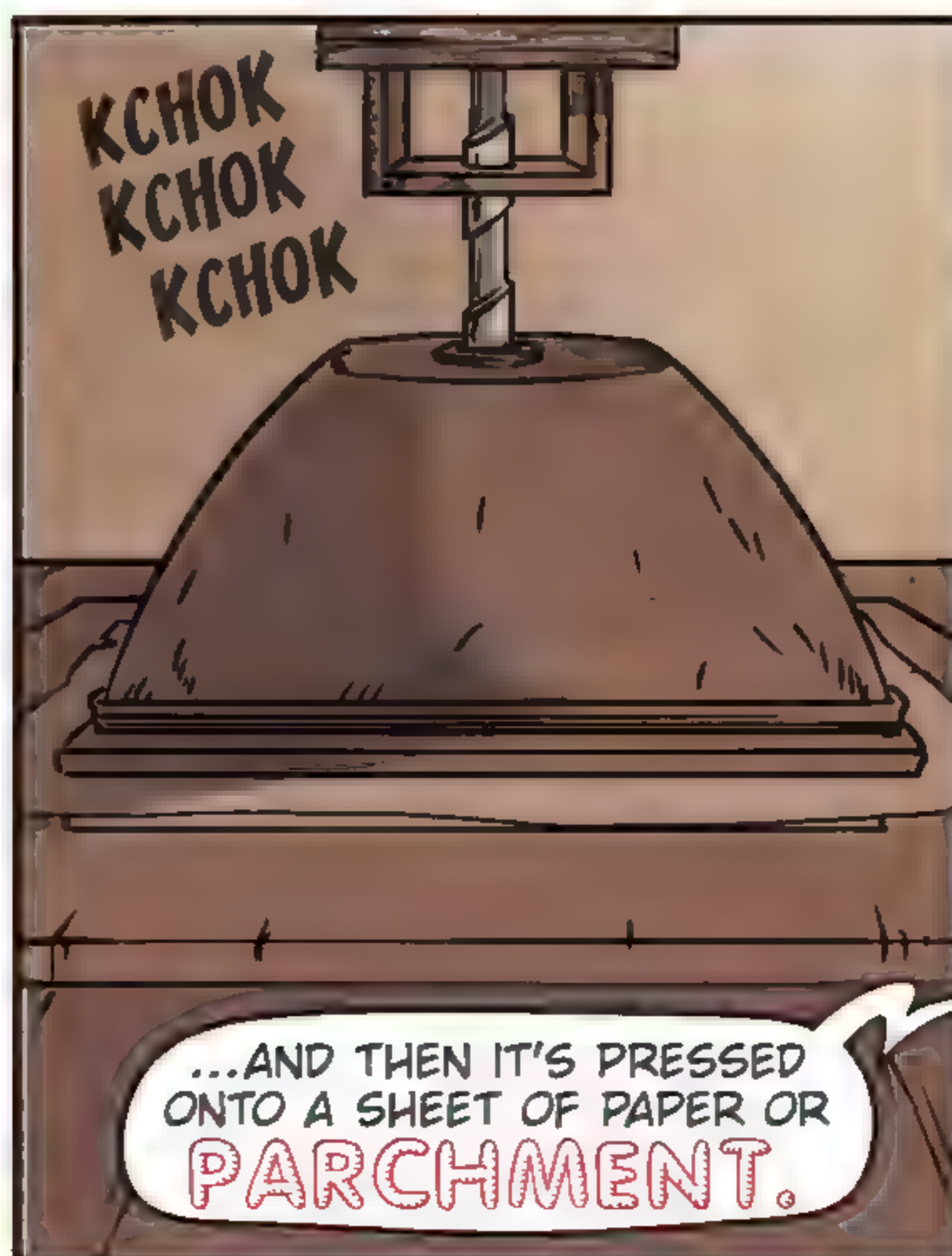
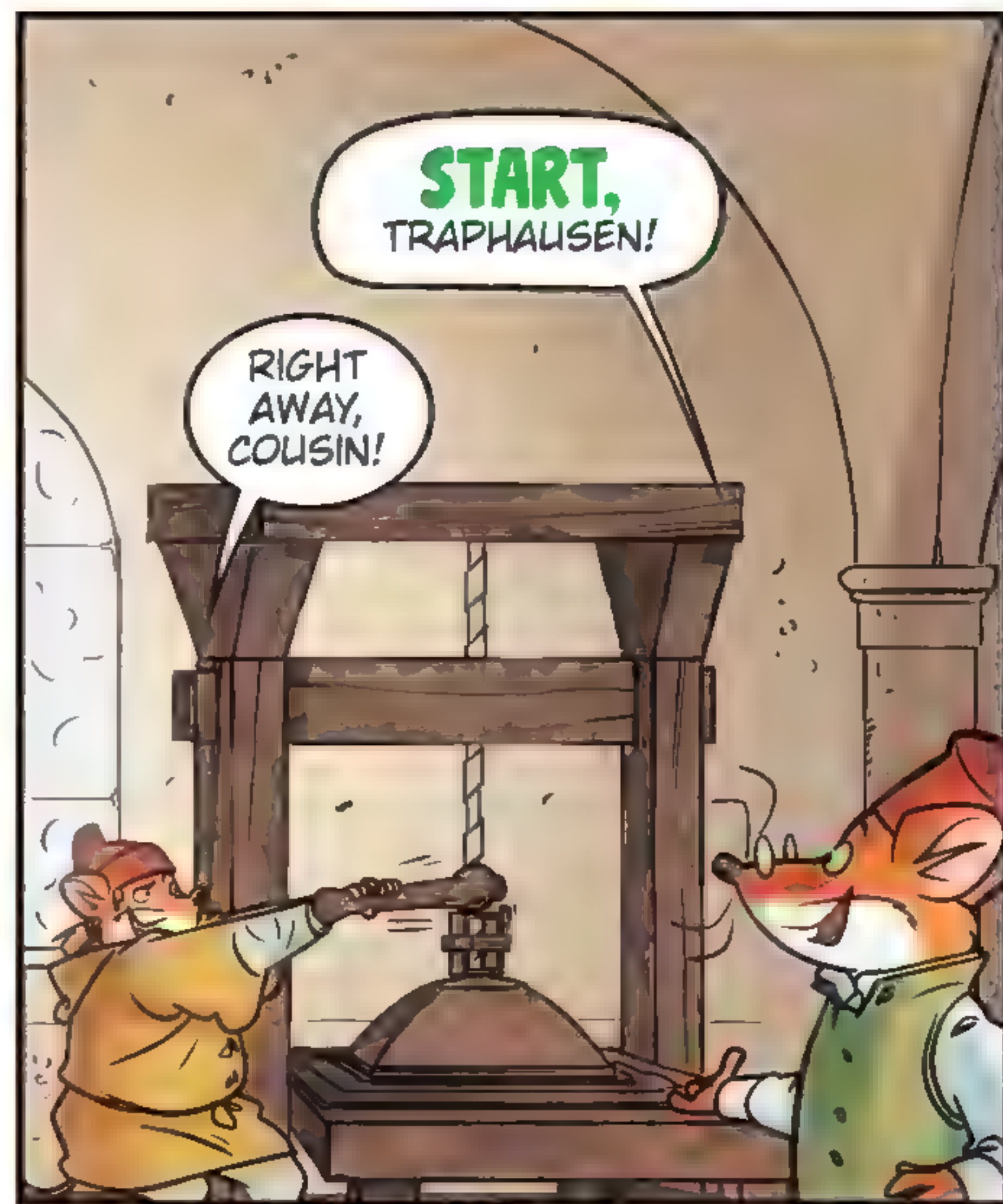
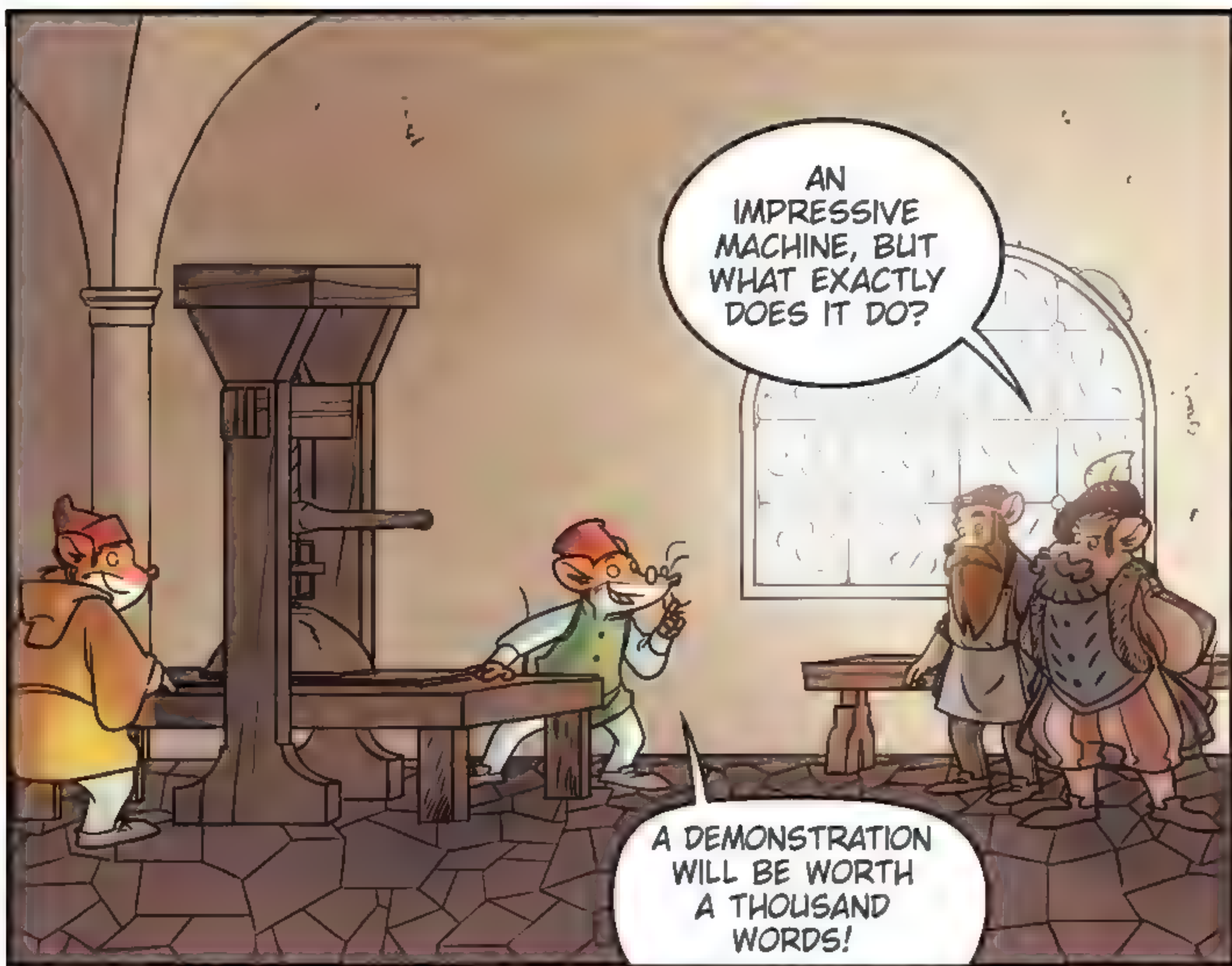
A VON STILTON NEVER GIVES UP EASILY...



















GUTENBERG'S FIRST PRESS

BEFORE GUTENBERG'S INNOVATION, THE TEXT OF AN ENTIRE PAGE WAS ENGRAVED ON A WOODEN TABLE THAT WAS CALLED A PRINT MATRIX. SO UNTIL IT CRACKED WHICH HAPPENED OFTEN, BECAUSE THE WOOD WASN'T VERY STURDY—EACH MATRIX COULD ONLY BE USED TO PRINT THE SAME PAGE.



BY SHIFTING THE LETTERS IN THE FRAME IN THE ORDER WE WANT, WE CAN PRINT THE PAGES OF ANY BOOK!



AND YOU SAID THAT THE TYPE PIECES WERE VERY DURABLE?

THE EXTENDED USE OF THIS MACHINE WILL PROVE IT!



GUTENBERG'S MOVABLE TYPE PIECES

GUTENBERG'S MOVABLE TYPE PIECES WERE MADE OF A LEAD ALLOY. THEY COOLED QUICKLY AND HAD A HIGH RESISTANCE TO THE PRESSURE EXERTED BY THE PRINTING PRESS.





WHILE WE CELEBRATED OUR
SUCCESS, OUR ENEMIES' PLANS
WEREN'T GOING SO WELL...

I STILL DON'T
UNDERSTAND WHAT
DIDN'T WORK
BEFORE...

BUT I'M SURE IT WAS ALL
YOUR FAULT, BONZO!

SO?

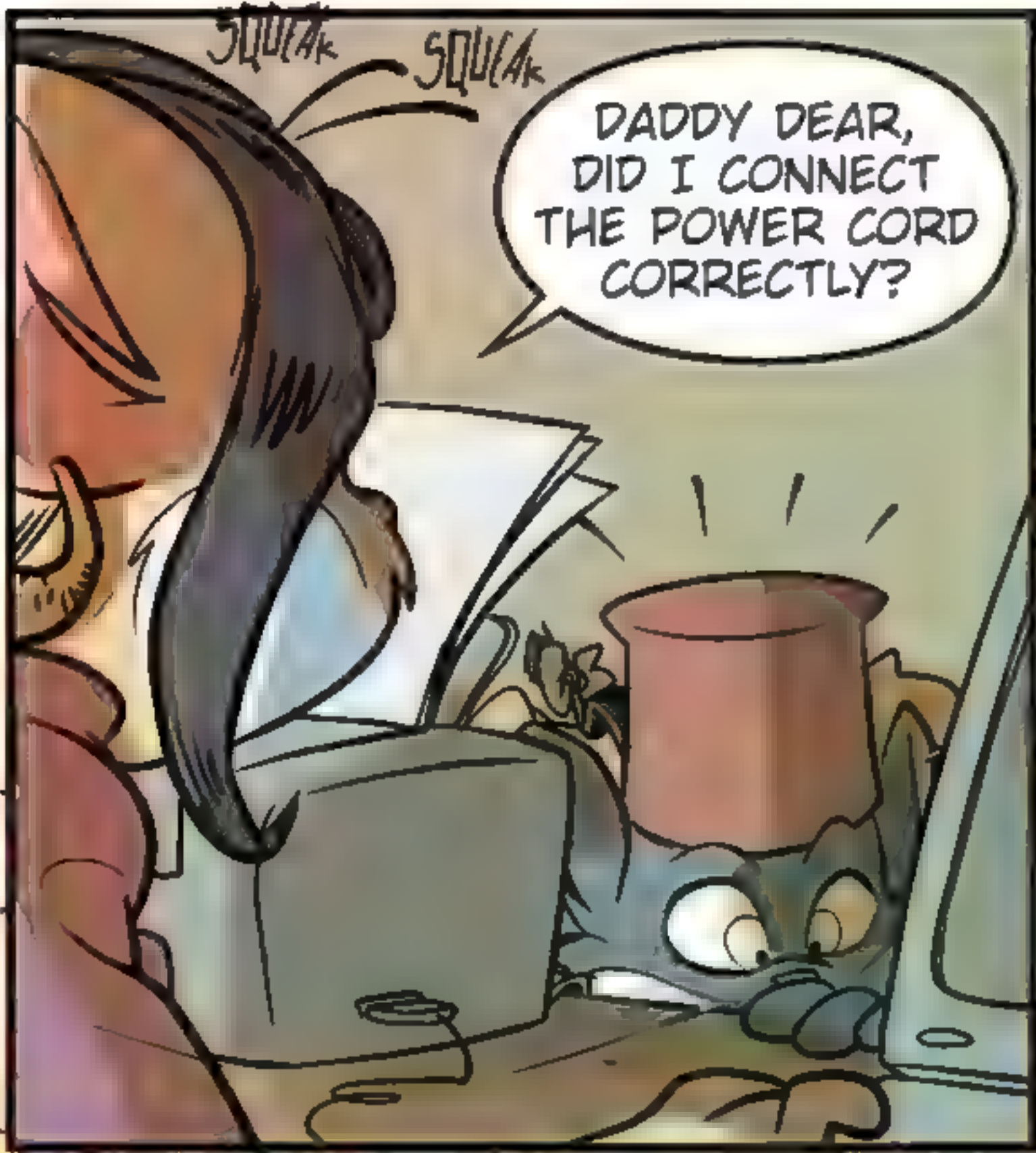
BUT ISN'T
IT ALWAYS
MY FAULT,
CHIEF?

IF YOU DIDN'T EAT SO MANY
HERRING,
YOU WOULD'VE PEDALED
MORE LIGHTLY!

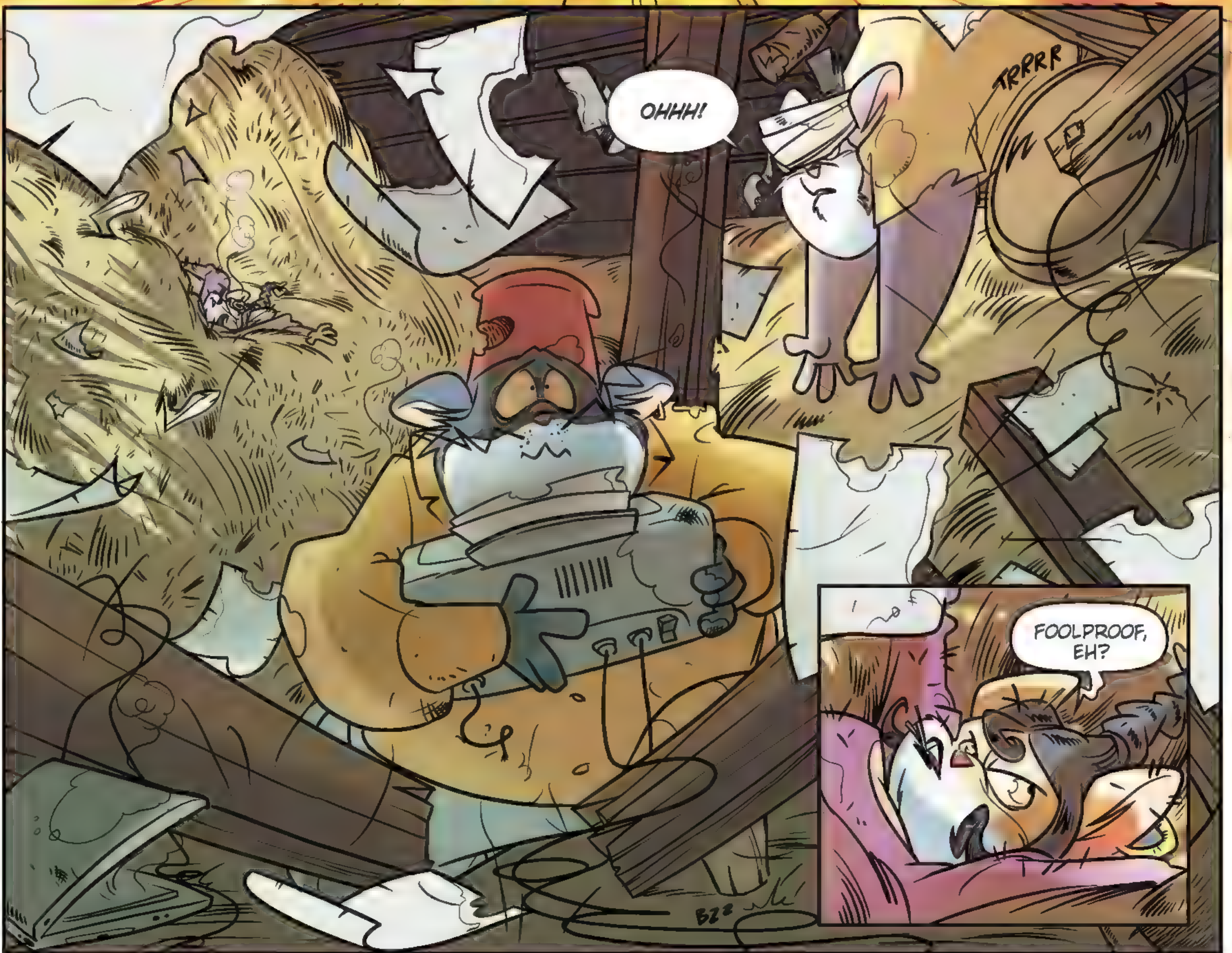
SO, SHALL WE TRY
AGAIN? OTHERWISE
GUTENBERG'LL PRINT
THE BOOKS BEFORE WE
DO!

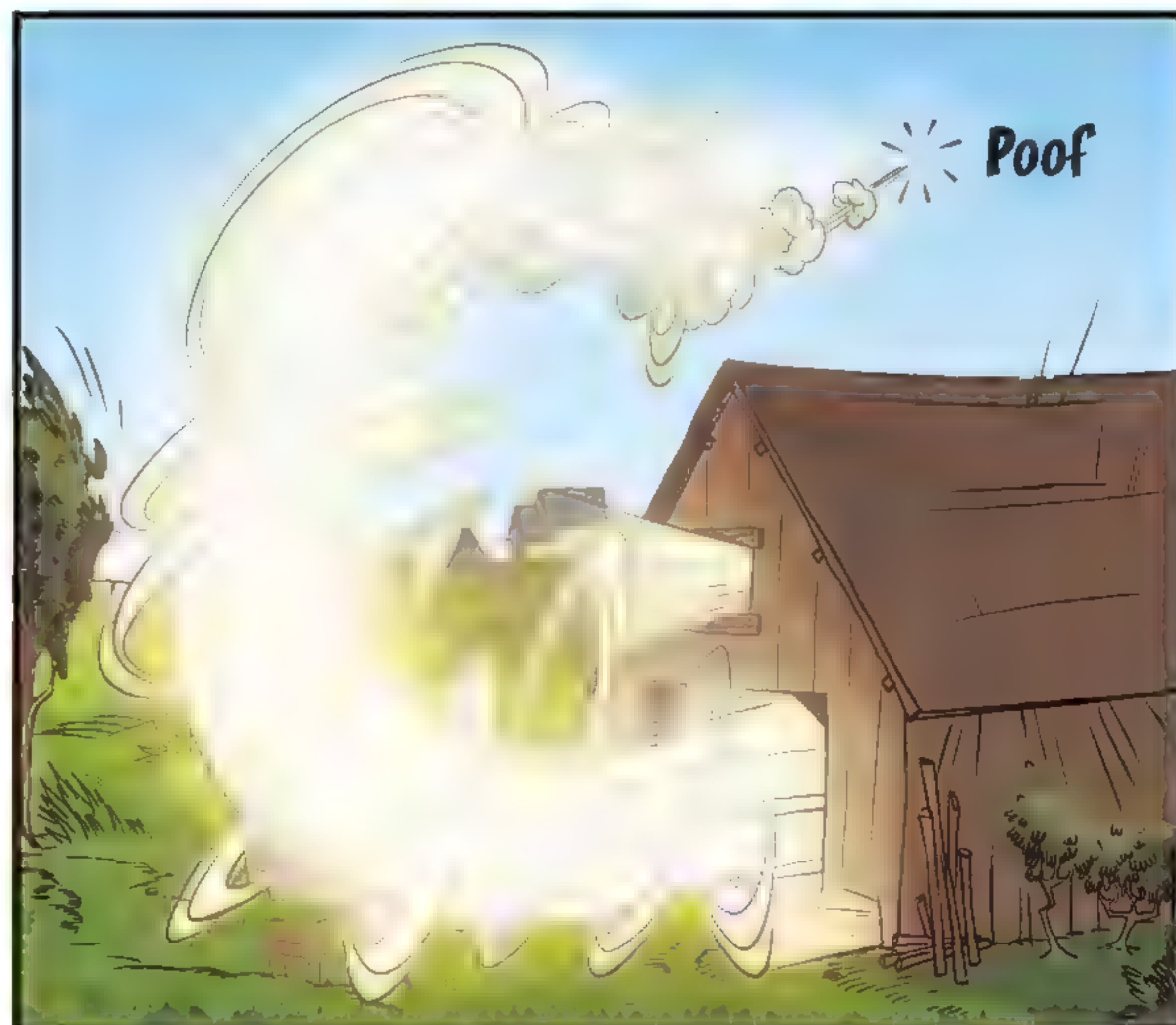
TRY TO PEDAL QUICKLY
BUT LIGHTLY, LIKE A CAT'S
WHISKER!

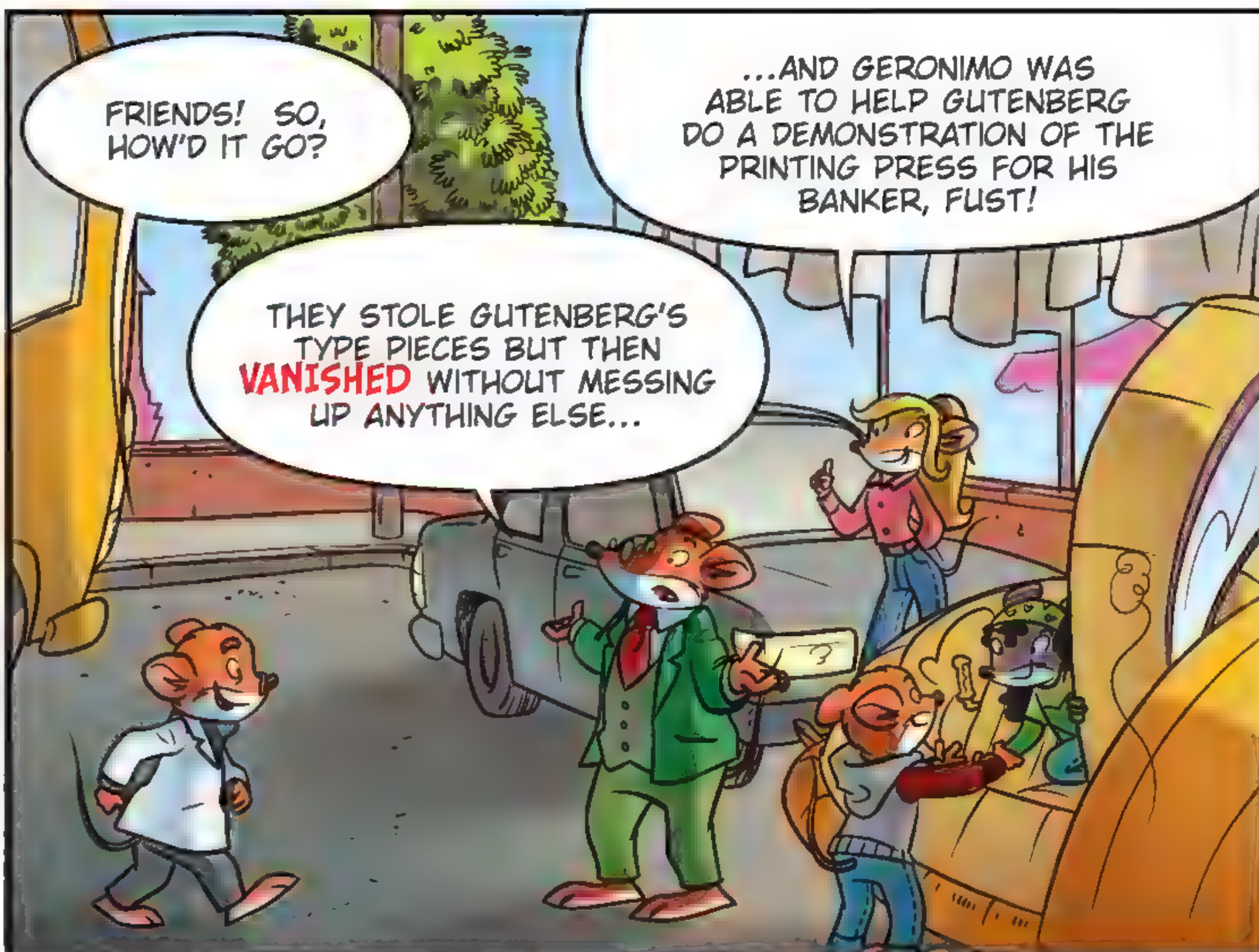
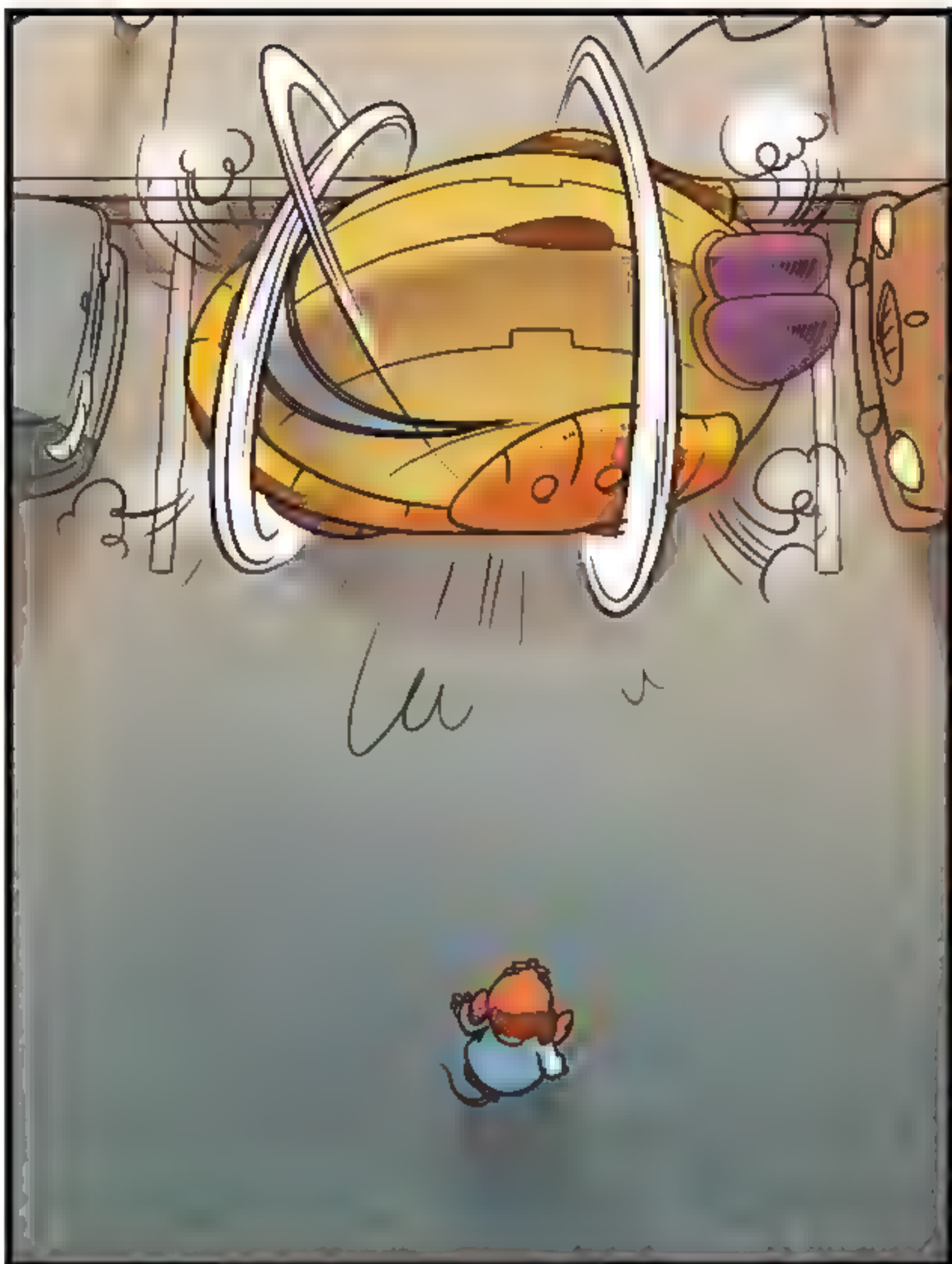
SQUEAK



BOOOOM







YOU KNOW, COUSIN,
THE PRINTING TRADE IS MORE
ADVENTUROUS
THAN I'D THOUGHT!



IN MY OPINION,
WE SHOULD GO
BACK TO THE
MIDDLE AGES...

TO DO
WHAT, TRAP?

YOU'RE
HOPELESS!

INVENT THE
PRETZEL!

MY DEAR RODENT
FRIENDS, FAREWELL UNTIL
THE NEXT ADVENTURE...
ANOTHER WHISKERFUL OF
AN ADVENTURE,
WRITTEN BY
STILTON... *Geronimo Stilton!*



Watch Out For PAPERCUTZ

Welcome to the needlessly nerdy ninth GERONIMO STILTON graphic novel from Papercutz—the folks dedicated to publishing great graphic novels for all ages. Oh, I forgot to introduce myself! I'm Salicrup, *Jim Salicrup* the Editor-in-Chief of Papercutz, and I want to thank Associate Editor Michael Petranek for writing the "Watch Out for Papercutz" column for GERONIMO STILTON #8 "Play It Again, Mozart!" As he wrote, I've been super-busy preparing such new Papercutz titles as DANCE CLASS by Béka and Crip and "Monster Mess" by Lewis Trondheim for publication. Not to mention, working on our other continuing titles, such as CLASSICS ILLUSTRATED DELUXE#7 "Around the World in 80 Days" by Jules Verne, adapted by Dauvillier and Soleihac. If you think Geronimo's journeys through time are exciting, you'll love Phileas Fogg's attempt to travel around our planet in 1872 in a mere 80 days! For a peek at each of these titles, just check out the samples on the following pages.

Back to GERONIMO STILTON. Many of you may wonder how Geronimo has the time to write his many books, edit the Rodent's Gazette, and also write these graphic novels? Well, the truth is he has a little help. Here to explain is Michele Foschini...

I have been a comic book writer for a number of years, but I have never had more fun doing this than when I do it for Dr. Stilton, *Geronimo Stilton!* As you might know, Geronimo (don't tell him I call him that, we're not really on first name basis yet!) often has to travel back in time, courtesy of Professor Von Volt's time machine, in order to foil the Pirate Cats's many plans to turn a profit by altering history.

Every time Geronimo comes back from one such adventure, he writes a detailed account of everything that's happened for his journals, and I get to read the entries. I then summarize them in a few pages, and along with my pal and collaborator Leonardo Favia we write the story down... much like in a movie script, with scene descriptions and dialogue lines, which is how a graphic novel is written.

Then an artist comes in and illustrates the story in such rat-tastic detail that oftentimes, when I re-read our work once it's printed, I feel as if I was with Geronimo on that adventure myself!

It's a real blast writing these stories in Italy, where I live, knowing that they will be translated in many other languages. It makes me think that while Geronimo moves through time, our stories cross borders and travel great distances to reach readers all over the world!

As Michele says, he writes these graphic novel tales in Italian, and we're very fortunate to have the multi-talented Nanette McGuinness to translate them for us. Recently we all got together at the Papercutz booth at the 2011 Comic-Con International: San Diego to not only meet the many fans of GERONIMO STILTON, but to also meet each other and get together for the first time. That's (from left to right) Michele Foschini, Nanette McGuinness, Jim Salicrup, and Michael Petranek in the photo above.

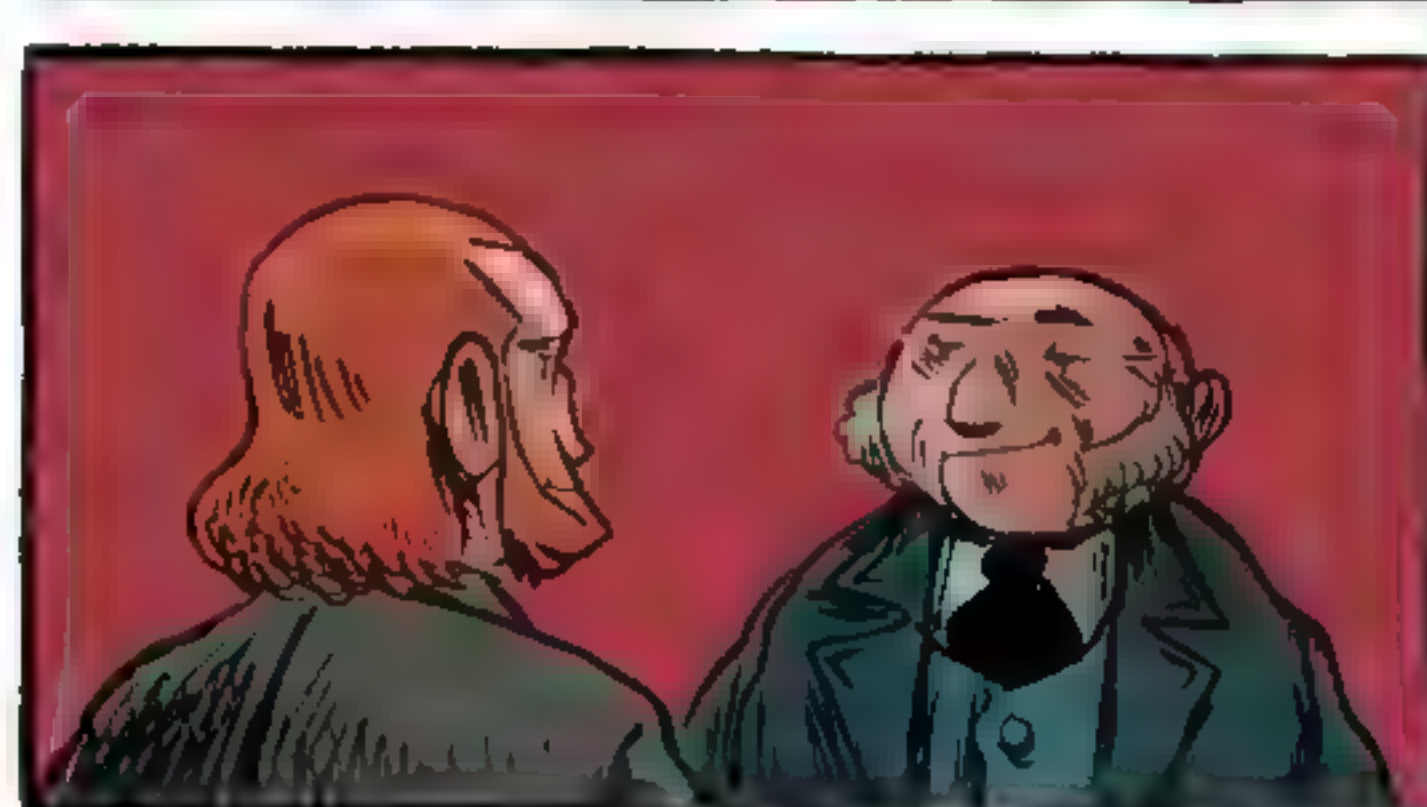
So, until we meet again, this is Jim Salicrup, writing to you from the past (How does it feel to be living in the future?), telling you to watch out for Papercutz!



Thanks,

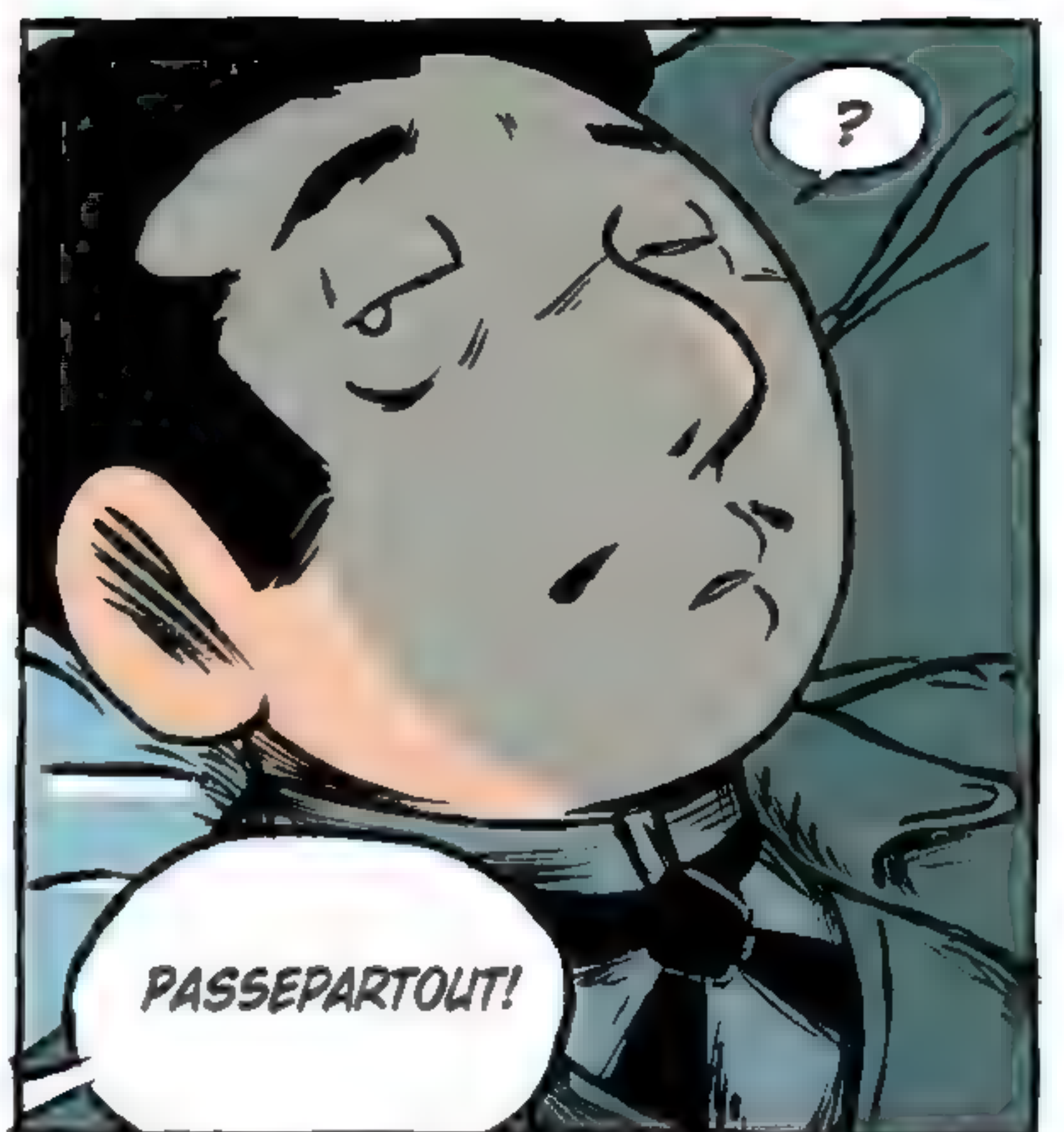
Jim

SPECIAL PREVIEW OF CLASSICS ILLUSTRATED DELUXE #7 "AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS"





CAC



DON'T MISS CLASSICS ILLUSTRATED DELUXE #7
"AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS"!

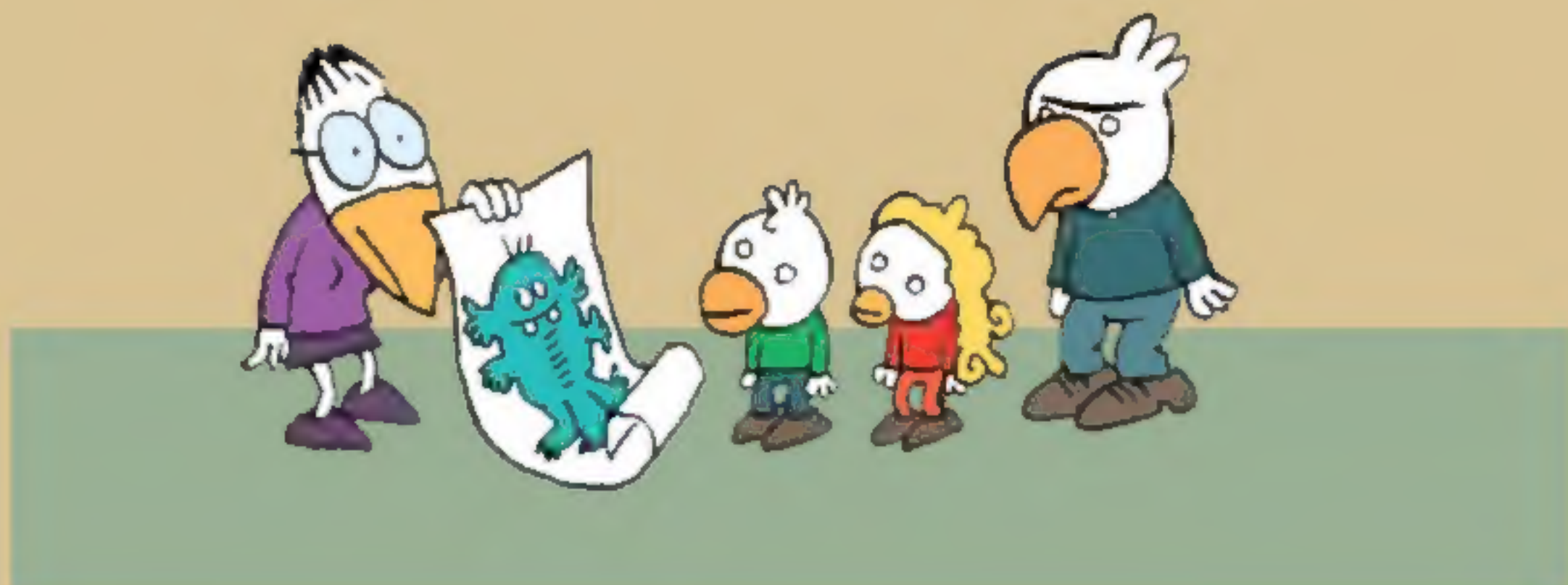
SPECIAL PREVIEW OF MONSTER #2 “MONSTER MESS”

"Okay... let's say he'll have three legs to chase after monsters, four arms for catching them, ten mouths for eating them."

"And two teeth for biting them."

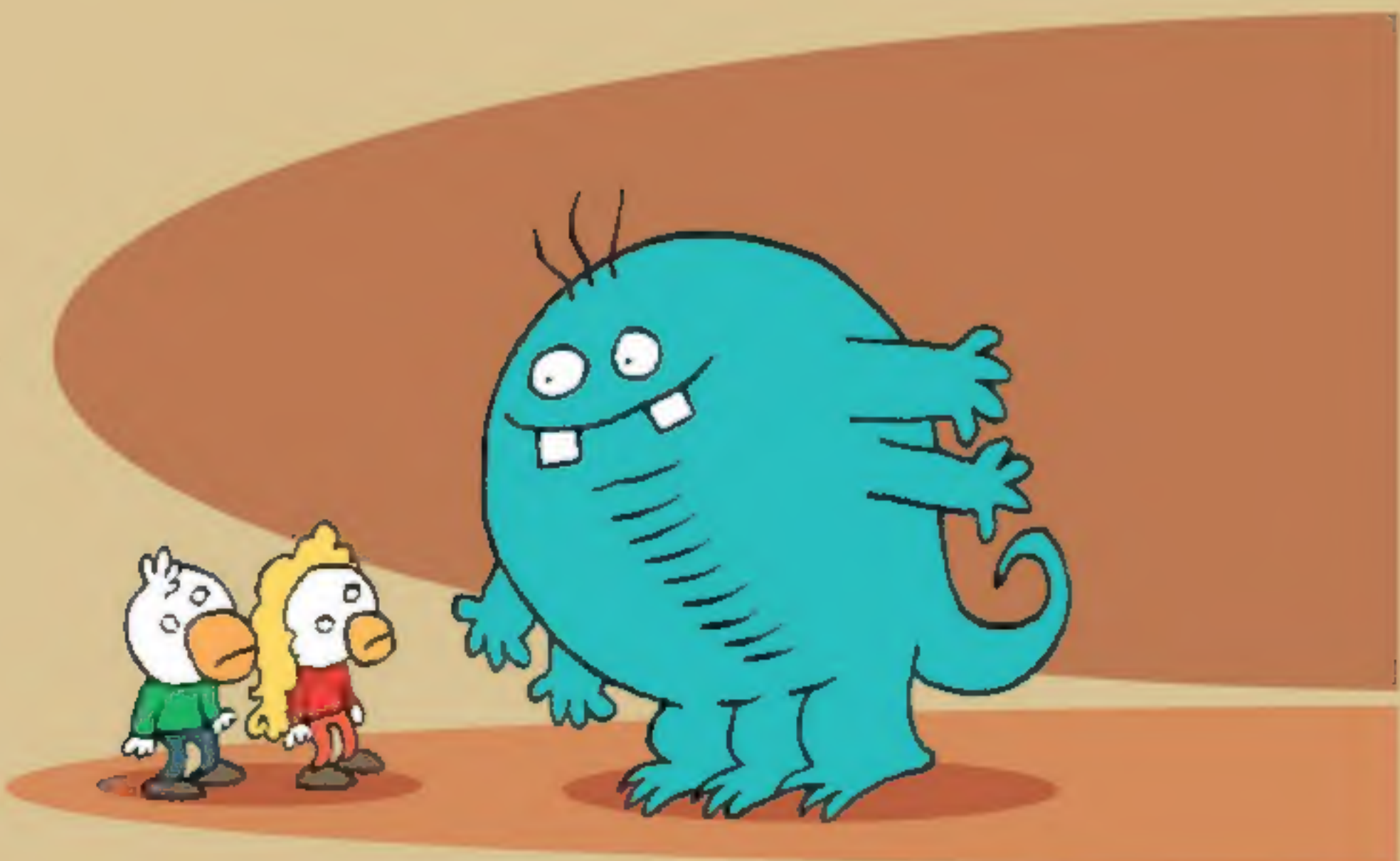
Our mom asks us what we want to call him, so we say "Kruduk."

But dad says no, nice monsters need a real first name.



He looks nice.

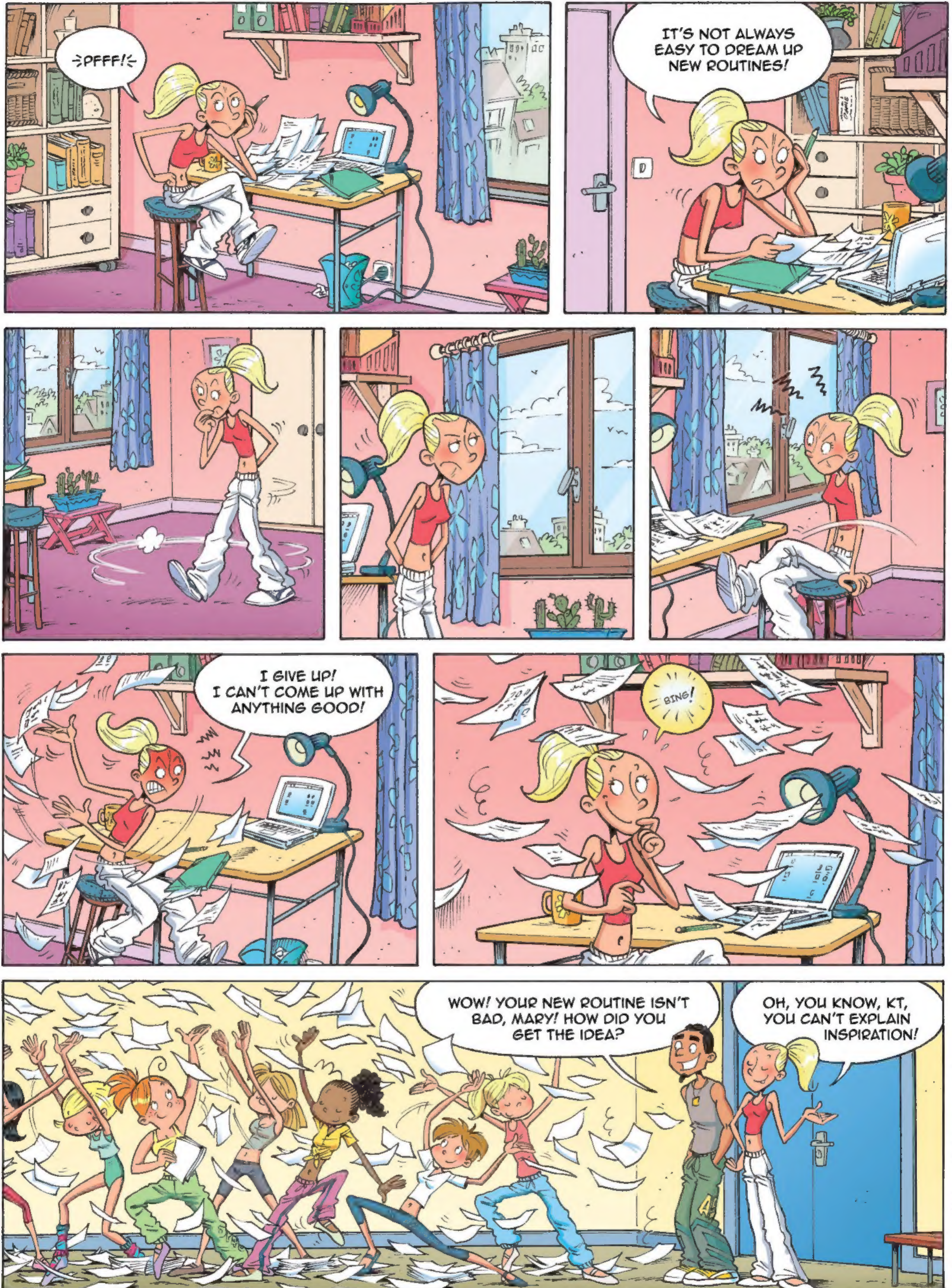
But he's a little clumsy.



DON'T MISS MONSTER #2 “MONSTER MESS”!

SPECIAL PREVIEW OF DANCE CLASS #1

"SO, YOU THINK YOU CAN HIP-HOP?"

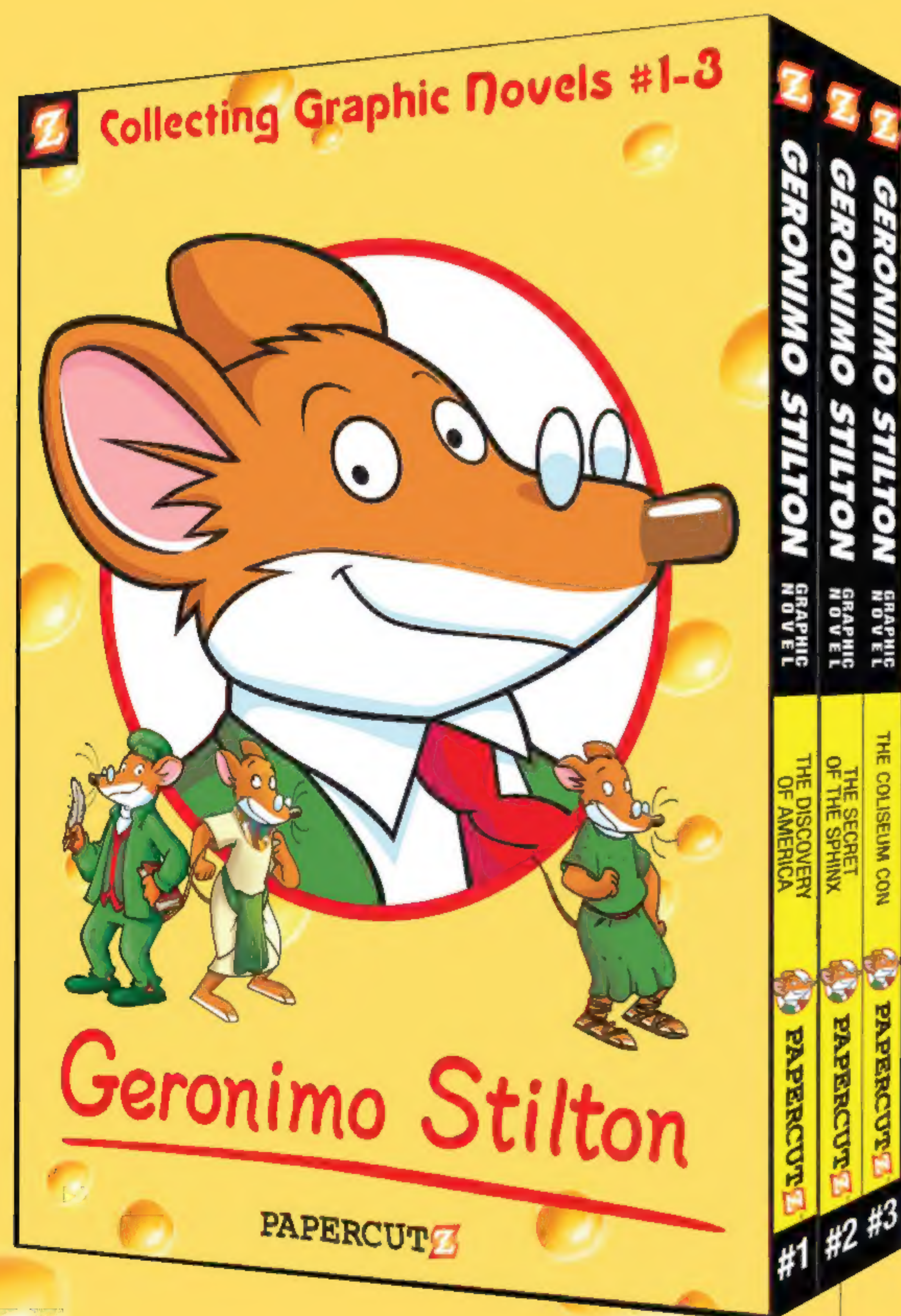


DON'T MISS DANCE CLASS #1

"SO, YOU THINK YOU CAN HIP-HOP?"

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Saving the future, by protecting the past!



GERONIMO STILTON IS THE EDITOR OF THE RODENT'S GAZETTE, THE MOST FAMOUSE PAPER ON MOUSE ISLAND. IN HIS FREE TIME HE LOVES TO TELL FUN, HAPPY STORIES. IN THIS ADVENTURE, GERONIMO HAS TO FACE HIS WORST ENEMIES, THE PIRATE CATS, WHO HAVE DISCOVERED A WAY TO TRAVEL BACK IN TIME AND CHANGE HISTORY... WHERE WOULD GERONIMO STILTON'S BOOKS AND NEWSPAPER BE IF NO ONE HAD INVENTED THE PRINTING PRESS? IT WOULD HAVE BEEN A WHISKERFUL OF A MESS! TO AVOID EXACTLY THAT DISASTER, GERONIMO, TOGETHER WITH BENJAMIN, TRAP, PETUNIA, AND BUGSY WUGSY, GO BACK IN TIME TO GERMANY IN THE 1400s, TO STOP THE PIRATE CATS FROM SABOTAGING THE WORKSHOP OF GUTENBERG--THE INVENTOR OF THE PRINTING PRESS!

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